

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
July 5, 2011**

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, July 5, 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
Barbara Stark, 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 July 5, 2011 council agenda

Before approval of the July 5, 2011 agenda, the chairman asked to add one additional item to the agenda (1.1 following Number 1 under Old Business), that being an appointment to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Board (Cornerstone). The administrator also asked to eliminate the executive session, as it wasn't needed. Motion was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell, to approve the agenda with the addition of the board appointment and the elimination of the executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of minutes

Motion to approve the June 7, 2011 County Council minutes (regular meeting) was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

The June 28, 2011 Called Meeting minutes of council were approved with a motion made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the public

None.

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
July 5, 2011**

Reports

Report Number 3 was given by the administrator in the absence of the sheriff. He reported the sheriff's office is evaluating the meals for the inmates, the 911 Center, and animal control since the County of Aiken has raised the rates for the boarding of the animals. The sheriff will be coming to council this fall with the progress after some changes have been implemented.

Old Business

Building Code Board of Adjustments & Appeals appointments

The motion to appoint Daryl Herrin to fill the at-large vacancy on the above board was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded Councilwoman Blackwell. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Herrin has agreed to serve on this board.

Also , the following three general contractors have agreed to serve on this board, of which only one is needed to fill the vacancy: Stanley Hills, Christopher Skinner, and Robert Newman. Motion was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to appoint Christopher Skinner to serve. Motion carried unanimously.

Alcohol & Drug Abuse Board appointment

There has been a vacancy on the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Board (Cornerstone) for quite some time. Ms. Sherry Holmes from Edgefield has volunteered to fill this vacancy which is a three year term. A motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Chairman Camp;bell, to appoint Sherry Holmes to this board. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

Third reading of Ordinance No. 10-11-640, "An Ordinance Amending the Edgefield County Personnel Policy to Provide that the County Will Not Pay for the "Standard Health Employee Portion" of the Employees' Health Insurance Benefits for Employees Whose Full Time Employment with the County Begins After Final Passage of this Ordinance."

The County currently pays for the employee portion of the health insurance premiums. All new individuals hired by the County will be required to pay the employee portion of the health insurance premiums.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 10-11-640. Motion carried unanimously.

Third reading Ordinance No. 10-11-641, "An Ordinance Amending Ordinance Number 10-11-627 to Delete the Requirement That the Franchisee Will Maintain an Office Within the County and To Correct Certain Section Numbers.

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
July 5, 2011**

Council voted unanimously at its June 7th meeting to amend Ordinance No. 10-11-641, Page 1, Section 2, 4th sentence “Sec. 93.324 Fees” is modified to read “Sec. 93.114 Fees”. The amendment adds the word “Fees” after Sec. 93.114.

Currently the Private Ambulance Service Franchise requires all services to maintain a staffed office. This amendment would allow them to eliminate the office and staff.

All ambulance franchise providers were invited to a meeting on Friday, May 20, 2011 to discuss potential changes to this ordinance. After a general discussion, only the one amendment is recommended.

Motion was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell, to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 10-11-641. Motion carried with three yeas and Councilmen Dorn and Bright opposing.

Third reading Ordinance No. 10-11-642, “An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a General Obligation bond, Series 2011, or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, of Edgefield, South Carolina, in the Principal Amount of Not Exceeding \$750,000; Fixing the Form and Details of the Bond; Authorizing the County Administrator or His Lawfully Authorized Designee to Determine Certain Matters Relating to the Bond; Providing for the Payment of the Bond and the Disposition of the Proceeds Thereof; and Other Matters Relating Thereto.”

This ordinance allows the County to obtain a bond in the amount of \$750,000. The funds would be used over a three-year period to purchase new sheriff vehicles and EMS ambulance.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 10-11-642. Motion carried four to one. Councilman Dorn opposed EMS being included and stated he would vote for the sheriff vehicles but not for an ambulance for EMS.

PUBLIC HEARING

This public hearing is being held to receive written and/or oral comments on Ordinance No. 10-11-645, “An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 91-301, As Originally Amended by Ordinance 93-94, Further Amended By Ordinance No. 97-98, For The Purpose Of Reestablishing The Annual Solid Waste User Fee for Those Edgefield County Citizens Residing Within The North Augusta City Limits, And To Provide Said Citizens With Use Of Edgefield County Solid Waste Services.”

In 1998 the current ordinance was approved which allowed all City of North Augusta resi-

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
July 5, 2011**

dents to be exempt from paying the annual solid waste user fee. This exemption shall be reviewed annually at the discretion of the Edgefield County Council. The amended ordinance would require all Edgefield County residents to pay the annual solid waste user fee.

Three residents of Oak Creek wrote letters to council opposing Ordinance No. 10-11-645 and Jim Huff, also an Oak Creek resident (and spokesperson for the residents) addressed council opposing the Ordinance. Mr. Huff asked that second reading not be given to this ordinance. There isn't anything in the 1997-98 Ordinance that has changed. The amended ordinance would cause the residents to pay a tax to Edgefield County that would not benefit them in any way.

Second reading of Ordinance No. 10-11-645, "An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 91-301, As Originally Amended by Ordinance 93-94, Further Amended By Ordinance No. 97-98, For The Purpose Of Reestablishing The Annual Solid Waste User Fee for Those Edgefield County Citizens Residing Within The North Augusta City Limits, And To Provide Said Citizens With Use Of Edgefield County Solid Waste Services."

Motion was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Chairman Campbell. Motion carried with Councilman Dorn voting no and Councilman Bright abstaining.

Second reading of Ordinance No. 10-11-643, "An Ordinance to Allow a Designee of the Sheriff's Department to Invoice Fees for Violations of Section 32.05, "Charges for False Burglar Alarms."

The current ordinance requires the Sheriff Office's to bill for any false alarms. The amendment allows them to designate another party to invoice these fees.

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 10-11-643. Motion carried unanimously.

Second reading of Ordinance No. 10-11-644, "An Ordinance Amending Section 91.09 of the "Nuisances" Chapter of the Edgefield Code of Ordinances So That All Nuisance Complaints Would Be Investigated By The County Administrator Or His Designee While Continuing To Allow The Sheriff's Department To Investigate Certain Nuisances."

Currently any nuisance complaints are directed to the County Administrator, the Sheriff's Office or the Magistrate. The amended ordinance would require nuisance complaints to go through the County Administrator or his designee. The noise portion of the ordinance was modified allowing the county to measure intensity of sound with a decibel meter.

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
July 5, 2011**

Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to approve seconded reading of Ordinance No. 10-11-644. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions

Motion was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve Resolution No. 10-11-333, "A Resolution to Ratify and Approve Interagency Narcotics Agreements Entered Into By The Edgefield County Sheriff's Office." Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of this resolution allows the Sheriff's department to continue its interagency Narcotics agreements with the attached seven law enforcement agencies.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve Resolution No. 10-11-334, "A Resolution to Ratify and Approve Mutual Aid Agreements and/or Other Inter-Jurisdictional Agreements Entered into by the Edgefield County Sheriff's Office." Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of this resolution allows the Sheriff's department to continue its mutual aid agreements with the attached eleven governmental entities.

Employment agreement

The interim administrator's current agreement expires July 31, 2011 and the revised agreement adds to his duties that he will mentor and train the assistant county administrator (interviews July 6, 2011). It also extends the contract up to March 4, 2012 and includes holiday pay, reduces hours to thirty (30) hours a week assuming someone can be hired shortly.

Motion was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell, to approve the employment agreement between the Interim Administrator and Edgefield County. Motion carried with Councilman Dorn opposing.

Recognition of guests

Chairman thanked everyone for coming.

Comments from public

George Crosswell addressed council concerning the zoning of property across from his home. He bought the property under the assumption it was zoned agricultural and could not be changed. Now he understands an office building may be built there and a potential industry also wants access to the railroad. He wanted to make his objections known to the change.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
July 5, 2011

Jon Hare asked about moving a 20 ft. camper onto 90 acres of land he owns in Edgefield County. There is electricity and water at the location because there was an old camper there many years ago. He would utilize this camper only when he is in Edgefield County working. The county attorney will work with him and the building department to see if the zoning allows the use of a camper as a residence.

Roy Blackwell referred back to the garbage fee. Since Oak Creek is in the city limits of North Augusta and their trash pickup is through the city they are not paying the landfill fee in either county (Edgefield or Aiken). So, they are actually getting away with paying less taxes than anyone else. Administrator "that is correct."

Report by Administrator

Mr. LeDuc stated that he received a letter of resignation from Jim McCord, a Zoning Board of Appeals member.

The assessment notice approved was received from the state on June 23. The assessment notices are in the hands of Smith Data who will be sending out all of these notices later this week/early next week. Anyone owning more than one tract of property will receive one notice rather than a notice for each tract.

GovDeals will be posting twenty pieces of equipment on line for sale. We will discuss with the paper how those with no computer access can bid on the equipment. One piece of equipment was appraised last week (pan) and we feel it is a possibility the county can get around \$60,000 for it.

Making several changes to the county web site one being the posting all of our receipts. We pay vendors and businesses for various amounts on a regular basis and we will post once a month on the web to be available to the public. It will cost a couple hundred dollars (1 time only) to set up the site.

Also on the web site will be a comments/complaint inquiry area. Responses will go to the Clerk to Council who will distribute that inquiry to the proper department for their reply to the individual making the request.

Each time a check is written it goes through several hands. Instead of this procedure all payments will be bank drafted to vendors in the future. This will eliminate many checks that are now being written.

In the budget council had given permission to hire a janitor and a staff person for the building maintenance. The administrator discussed this arrangement with department heads and elected

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
July 5, 2011**

officials and after hearing comments from the various departments we have revised our current contract with Southern National Janitorial reducing the contract over \$10,000.00 to provide basically the same services that are provided today. Therefore, we will not change the janitorial services at this time. The contract has been extended for another three months to make sure the required service level will be maintained. It will be reevaluated in two months and if the services are adequate the contract will be extended through the rest of the fiscal year.

We will be advertising within the next couple of weeks for a building maintenance position. There will be inmates working with that individual for maintenance on county buildings. We feel there will be a savings of \$20,000 to \$30,000 by making these changes to the janitorial and building maintenance.

The month of July is when we need to begin re-districting. We are talking with the state on this.

Comments by county council members

Councilman Dorn asked the administrator the amount of money he (administrator) could approve without consulting the council. (\$5,000.00). Over \$5,000.00 council would have to approve.

Comments by county council chair

The chairman reminded council of the two called meetings tomorrow (July 6th). At 5:30 council will meet with the Edgefield Town Council at their facility and at 6:30 in the council chambers a called meeting to interview four candidates for the position of Assistant County Administrator/Clerk to Council. July 20th, 6:00 p.m., Edgefield County Council will meet with the Trenton Town Council in their town hall.

The chairman stated he is working on scheduling meetings with other governmental entities.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
July 5, 2011**

Edgefield County Council

Dear Campbell, Chair

Genia Blackwell, Vice Chair

Rodney Ashcraft, Council Member

Willie C. Bright, Council Member

Norman Dorn, Council Member

ATTEST

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council