

**MINUTES**  
**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**August 2, 2011**  
**6:00 P. M.**

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, August 2, 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  
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 August 2, 2011 Council Agenda**

Before approval of the August 2, 2011 agenda, the chairman asked to add one additional item to the agenda (prior to Number 1 under New Business), that being two appointments to the Water & Sewer Authority Board). Motion was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to approve the agenda with the addition of the board appointments. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the July 5, 2011 County Council minutes (regular meeting) was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

The July 6, 2011 Called Meeting minutes of Council and the Edgefield Town Council were approved by a motion made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

The motion to approve the July 6, 2011 Called Meeting of Council (interviews for Assistant County Administrator/Clerk to Council) was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by

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Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

The minutes of the July 20, 2011 Called Council Meeting with the Trenton Town Council were approved by a motion made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

**Comments from the public**

None.

**Reports**

No comments.

**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 residents 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.

There were no oral comments by any citizen. There were four letters received by council opposing the ordinance.

**Old Business**

Third 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" was approved by a motion made by Chairman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion carried 4-0, with Councilman Dorn abstaining.

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Third 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" was approved by a motion made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Councilwoman Blackwell made the motion to approve the third 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." The motion was seconded by Councilman Bright and the motion carried unanimously.

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 their designee. The noise portion of the ordinance was modified allowing the county to measure intensity of sound with a decibel meter.

**NEW BUSINESS**

At this point the Water & Sewer Authority Board appointments added to the agenda were discussed. The terms of James Earl Kennamer and O. Frank Dorn will expire September 15, 2011. Mr. Kennamer has served on the board since 1982 and Mr. Dorn was appointed December 2007, filling the unexpired six-year term of John Sullivan. The Water & Sewer Authority Board has requested the reappointment of these two members, and they each have agreed to serve. Motion was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to recommend to the local delegation for the Governor's appointment of Mr. Kennamer and Mr. Dorn. Motion carried unanimously.

The chairman also reminded council members of the vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals created by the resignation of Jim McCord. The Board consists of three members with three-year terms. The Zoning Board of Appeals appointments are at-large. Chairman Campbell asked council members to consider presenting names before the September meeting so this could be an appointment to be considered by Council.

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**Ambulance purchase**

The administrator informed council that all ambulances have reached a point that replacing all of them could be justified. Basically a couple of them have 250,000 miles on them (considered the third and fourth ambulance.) For sixty to eighty percent of daily operations two ambulances are on the road.

One option to purchase a new ambulance would be to use funds from the \$750,000 bond that was recently approved, if council chooses. At this time there are enough reserves in the ambulance account to purchase a new ambulance. In fact, by November there may be enough funds to purchase a second ambulance or take the other two ambulances and totally refurbish them.

We are requesting Council's permission to advertise for an unbudgeted ambulance using EMS cash reserves. Upon your approval we would obtain bids for a new ambulance for Council's formal approval at the September 6, 2011 meeting. A new ambulance would cost approximately \$140,000. For clarification of the reserve funds, this means no funds from the \$750,000 bond would be used at this time to purchase new ambulances and used only to purchase sheriff vehicles. The administrator stated he hoped not to use all of the \$750,000 bond money so the bond could be paid back earlier.

The cash reserves come partly from millage that is paid by taxpayers for EMS services. Money is coming in and there have been vacancies during the years that have allowed savings from that department to accumulate. This is a designated millage paid for EMS services that cannot be spent for anything that is not related to EMS.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to have the administrator obtain bids for the purchase of a new ambulance. Motion carried 4-0, Councilman Dorn abstaining.

**Internet policy**

A good county internet policy is very important. Adopting the right criteria for protection of employees and the county from improper use of the internet should be considered. Presently, the county has a very short two-paragraph policy and we feel, based on information from other counties and other governmental agencies, that an updated internet policy is definitely needed. This new policy follows the current computer and internet practices for most local governments in the state. The severity of the policy concerning disciplinary could be from a warning to termination.

Consensus of council to receive as information the new internet policy and will be considered at the September meeting.

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**Internet connection / Kneece building**

DSL is presently being used at the Kneece building but the offices located there need to be within the county network. This can be done by connecting through fiber or wireless. Council received this as information and will be considered at the September council meeting.

**Resolution**

Resolution No. 11-12-335, "A Resolution Setting Forth the Job Description and Duties of Clerk to Council" was considered by council for approval. The description and duties also include general knowledge and/or experience with information technology. This would eliminate some involvement by EDTS of minor IT problems. This person will also be in charge of posting to the county's web site. Motion was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to approve Resolution No. 11-12-335. Motion carried unanimously.

**Recognition of guests**

No guests.

**Comments from public**

Tom Krohn, Padgett Road, addressed council members concerning vehicles speeding on this road. There is a thirty-five mph speed limit sign there. The administrator stated he would look into this.

Jon Hare was present to address council concerning the issue of being able to place his camper on his property located on Highway 19. This area is zoned RD and campers are not allowed in RD areas. The administrator is to compile more detailed information on this request for Mr. Hare.

**County Administrator report**

The question was asked at the last meeting as to whether or not the chairman had the authority to make purchases (under our purchasing ordinance) on his own. The county administrator can approve a purchase up to \$5,000. Any purchase over \$5,000 goes before council for approval.

The GovDeals process was closed recently (selling of county equipment/vehicles). \$86,000 worth of equipment was sold and the items that did not sell will be placed on GovDeals for auction at a later date.

Re-districting process has begun. Mr. LeDuc stated that the state is putting together the maps for council to review later this month. Would like for the entire process be completed by the end of October.

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On the Animal Shelter, Aiken County would like for Edgefield County not to continue use of their facility. The county is looking into setting up visits to view other animal shelter facilities in the state. By October we hope to have some ordinance changes and some recommendations on the possibility of building a shelter in Edgefield County.

The 911 Center has to be updated. The equipment on numerous occasions has gone down. The idea is to have each component stand alone – when one component goes down the whole system would not go down, which is happening at the present. Also, we want to make sure that the equipment that is installed will allow more consolidation. Currently we are consolidated with the fire departments, towns, EMS, sheriff. Funding (100%), we feel, has been located for that and we will be going out for proposals to get someone to manage the project.

As was brought before council earlier the changing of the janitorial contract has now been in place for a month. There have not been any complaints from any departments on this service.

The library is completed: new carpet, painting, and the automated door.

Work in the courthouse is progressing. The ceramic tile is almost complete and most of the carpet upstairs is complete. We hope within a couple weeks the project will be completed.

A rails-to-trails project is being looked into; that is, taking the old railroad bed and maybe form a trail system of walking, riding, and jogging type trail throughout the county. Some ideas will be put together over the next few months for council to review.

We have begun assessing the roads and expect the assessment to be completed sometime this fall. We will then ask the CTC to have a special meeting so we can show them the roads we feel need special attention from a safety standpoint; what roads need to be paved versus those that are dirt now that could possibly be paved in the very near future. What we can look at over the next five to ten years – a systematic approach on prioritizing what roads need to be paved, etc – funding that would be available.

As mentioned at an earlier meeting that the county's financing would be going on line. All of the check registers are on line for the public to review. Web changes should be made soon so that the inquiry and comment section will be added.

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Mr. Leduc reminded council he would be out of town for about a two-week period beginning later in this week and returning the 21<sup>st</sup>. During that time, Lynn Strom will be available to assist in any way she can.

The chairman asked if there was any report concerning the inmate meals and the administrator stated the sheriff's office has been discussing the possibility of bringing in a new vendor to supply these meals.

**Comments by County Council Members**

Councilman Dorn commented on monies being paid out concerning paying two individuals for the same job (administrator).

**Comments by County Council Chair**

The chairman stated that the monies had been explained before, but he would be happy to explain it again.

Chairman Campbell stated he has met with the department heads, as well as having met earlier in the year with the elected officials. The department heads are very conscientious about their jobs, they work hard to stretch tax dollars.

Called meetings: Tuesday, August 30, 2011, 6:00 PM-two items will be on the agenda.

1. Redistricting
2. Executive Session: applications for Clerk to Council

Called meeting with Johnston Town Council - Monday, August 8, 2011, 6:30 PM, Johnston Town Hall.

**No executive session**

At this time Chairman Campbell recognized retiring Barbara Stark with many kind words and a beautiful watch inscribed for the thirty years with the county and her initials.

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

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**Edgefield County Council**

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Dear 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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Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

