

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

April 2, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument 201900001625 OR Book Page 1734 357

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, April 2, 2019 in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield, SC. Notice of this meeting was provided to Edgefielddaily.com, The Edgefield Advertiser and others as requested.

**Members present**

Scott Cooper, Chairman  
Albert Talbert, Vice Chairman  
Arthur Biggs, Councilman  
Dean Campbell, Councilman  
Dr. Jacqueline Kennion, Councilwoman

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**Others present**

Tommy Paradise, County Administrator  
Bruce Cooley, Assistant Administrator/Finance Director  
Andrew Marine, County Attorney  
Jennifer Gilley, Clerk to Council  
and others as per list attached

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Pastor Bruce Cooley. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was then recited.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the April 2, 2019 agenda was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the March 5, 2019 County Council minutes (Regular Meeting of Council) was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

**Guest Speakers**

None

**Comments from the Public**

1. Linda Anderson – Mrs. Anderson asked if there was a cost estimate from staff on the possible Space Needs Study. She also asked how that would be funded if Council decided to move forward with that Request for Proposal (RFP). Next, she stated that Item Number 4 on the agenda referred to “several large budget items related to Technology.” She asked for a list of those items. Finally, Mrs. Anderson closed her comments by asking Council to consider removing the proposal of a GO Bond. She explained that last year the road maintenance and garbage fees were increased and this year the School Bond will double. She said another bond increase would hurt the taxpayers more than finding an alternative way to fund these items or pushing some of them to another fiscal year. She went on to say that if County Council and the Planning Commission would focus on commercial growth, that would help the tax base and take some of the burden off of the citizens.

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- 2. Craig Carter – Mr. Carter stated that he believes the proposed \$15 increase would be worth the benefit of the advances in technology the County would be able to purchase.
- 3. John Pettigrew – Mr. Pettigrew said he serves on the Planning Commission and that he was the only member that voted against the proposed Comprehensive Plan. He explained that this is a very important document and while he agrees with most of the content, there are a few things that he believes could be better. He went on to explain that he would like to see this document done right from the beginning. Mr. Pettigrew said that he has two concerns regarding the proposed Comprehensive Plan specifically on Pages 7.6 and 7.11. He said he believes that some of the details could be changed to make these two items better fit for Edgefield County, in his opinion. Mr. Pettigrew also said that if anyone had questions after the public comments section or wanted him to explain further, he would be happy to talk with them.

**Reports**

There were no questions or discussion on the reports.

**Consent Agenda**

Chairman Cooper asked Council if there were any items that needed to be removed from the Consent Agenda to allow discussion. There were none. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

- 1. Consideration of Appointment to the Mobile/Manufactured Home Appeals Committee.  
Franklin Gabriel .....At Large
- 2. Consideration of Re-appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals.  
Calvin Jackson .....At Large

**Consent Agenda Ends Here**

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**Public Hearing**

None

**Old Business**

- 1. Consideration of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 18-19-757, “An Ordinance to Authorize the Third Amendment to the Agreement for Development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park Dated as of December 31, 1996, between Aiken County and Edgefield County, as Previously Amended, to Extend the Term of the Agreement and Expand the Area of the Park which is located in Aiken County and Other Matters Related Thereto.”  
Chairman Cooper asked Mr. Paradise if anything had changed with this ordinance. Mr. Paradise said nothing had changed in this ordinance. There was no discussion.  
Motion to approve second reading of ordinance number 18-19-757 was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

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2. Consideration of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 18-19-758, "An Ordinance Authorizing Amendments to the Agreement for Development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park between Aiken County and Edgefield County, Dated as of May 8, 2018, to Expand the Area of the Park which is located in Aiken County and Change the Name of the Park to "Aiken County/Edgefield County-Zeus Industrial Products, Inc." and Authorizing other matters related thereto."

Chairman Cooper asked Mr. Paradise if anything had changed with this ordinance. Mr. Paradise said nothing had changed in this ordinance. There was no discussion.

Motion to approve second reading of ordinance number 18-19-758 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

1. Consideration of Approval of First Reading of Ordinance Number 18-19-759, "An Ordinance Amending the County of Edgefield Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan."

Mr. Paradise said Section 6029-510(E) of the SC Code of Laws requires the County to update all elements of the Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan at least every ten years. He said the current Plan was adopted December 1, 2009 and updated January 6, 2015. The Planning Commission has been working with staff and the consultant to develop this new Plan. Mr. Paradise said three public input sessions in various locations of the county were conducted and written comments were taken. A draft was developed, and a public input session was held and also written comments were taken. Based on the input from the public, the Planning Commission has developed the proposed Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan and recommended its approval by County Council on a 6-1 vote at their March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. John Ford with Robert and Company then took the podium to review the proposed Comprehensive Plan. He explained the Comprehensive Plan will carry forward the Strategic Plan that is in place. He went on to say this is only one of the methods to make decisions regarding the County. Mr. Ford went on to explain some of the edits they made regarding comments they received after the comment period was over. He went over the bullet points of the Comprehensive Plan and asked if Council had any questions, comments or changes. Mr. Ford also reviewed a hand-out that was given to Council that contained 4 key points.

1. The second bullet on page 2.1 is an economic goal carried forward from the prior comprehensive plan. The term "urban areas" is understood to refer to commercial and higher density residential uses along highways. The goals statement should be interpreted as a "goal" to encourage future development in more efficient centers rather than strip development along the corridor. As a goal, it allows the County to be encourage more efficient development.
2. The chart on page 7.10 illustrates land uses identified by the Future Comprehensive Plan by broad land use category rather than zoning. No large areas of multi-family zoning were identified in the unincorporated county although multi-family uses would continue to locate in the incorporated jurisdictions. It looks like we overlooked the conditional areas where Multi-family uses should be allowed as conditional uses. I believe that Multi-Family zoning should be allowed as a conditional use in Village Density Residential, Neighborhood Commercial, and the Commercial/Mixed Use activity Center categories and that should be added to the table on page

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7.11. I also would add a change to the header for the first column in Table 7.3 (see page 7.11) to reflect that the table is referring to the "Land Use Category" rather than actual uses. I also believe that although there are no "Multi-Family" land uses in the plan as approved, the County should be able to make changes as needed based on experience over the next few years and an assessment based on the overlay studies for the three major road corridors and the periphery of the unincorporated areas around Edgefield and Johnston.

3. The overlays are suggestions and additional overlays are not prohibited by the recommendations that these five overlays be included in the plan.
4. We came back and numbered the pages in Chapter 9. The reference is on page 9.6 and refers to ongoing efforts by the County to assist property owners to repair and rehabilitate areas depressed economically through wear, neglect and abandonment. The County is expected to provide direction, repair of worn infrastructure and incentives could be in the form of the pursuit of federal, state, or private grants, prioritizing county programs that encourage local reinvestments, or penalties for failure to meet federal, state, or county standards. The statement is intended to reference economic development and the extension and maintenance of infrastructure, employment and adequate housing to County citizens and visitors.

After his review, Mr. Ford asked Council if they had any questions or comments for him.

Chairman Cooper thanked Mr. Ford and staff for their efforts in drafting this ordinance. Councilman Campbell said that he thinks this is a very well written plan. He stated that he does have some experience with comprehensive plans and he was pleased with this proposal. He asked Mr. Ford to address Mr. Pettigrew's comments. Mr. Ford said that he has taken Mr. Pettigrew's comments into consideration during the drafting of the proposal and some of Mr. Pettigrew's comments were reflected in the proposal. He went on to say explain that some areas will have uneven development no matter the wording changes. He explained that in rural counties there are larger areas with a smaller population density number. He said this stems from families keeping large tracts intact for their families and families wanting to have larger tracts of land for privacy. He explained that those areas won't be as heavily populated as a subdivision. Mr. Ford explained that due to these examples, they tried to devise a plan that would allow for growth and rural opportunities. He said that zoning will be able to allow for different uses and that the comprehensive plan is just one tool that will be used when speaking about development and growth. He explained between the uses of each of the different tools, many scenarios will be allowed. Mr. Ford went on to say that zoning will also handle Mr. Pettigrew's mention of allowing commercial in suburban density residential areas. Mr. Ford also told Council that the next census will be critical for Edgefield County. He said these numbers will allow for grant qualifications and other opportunities.

Chairman Cooper said that he would like Council to consider making Commercial, a Conditional Use in the Suburban Density Residential areas. Councilman Campbell asked if Mr. Ford made the same recommendation that Chairman Cooper suggested. Mr. Ford said their staff are not making that recommendation but that he had no personal opinions to disregard that recommendation. Councilman Biggs asked Mr. Ford if any of the input reflected a want or need for Commercial to be a Conditional



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Use in the Suburban Density Residential areas. Mr. Ford said they didn't receive that feedback in the charrettes that were held in regards to developing the proposed plan. Councilman Biggs said if there was no input from the public regarding Chairman Cooper's request, he didn't think it needed to be added.

Motion to approve first reading of ordinance number 18-19-759 to include the four items presented by Mr. Ford in the handout was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of Approval to Authorize the County Administrator to Issue a Request for Proposal for a Space Needs Study for a new Law Enforcement Center.

Mr. Paradise explained the Strategic Plan adopted in 2018 listed a long-term goal to develop plans for the construction of a Law Enforcement Center that would contain the Sheriff's Office, Detention Center, and Magistrate's Office. He explained that staff believes the best way to move forward with this goal is to have a space needs study so that the county has a stepping stone to move forward when the county is ready to start construction. He explained this would include details like square footage, layout and various functions as well as things may be necessary that staff doesn't realize they need at this point. Mr. Paradise told Council that if they approve this item he will move forward with issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a space needs study. Mr. Paradise said that upon receipt of the RFPs they will be ranked by staff and submitted to Council for approval. Mr. Paradise also answered Mrs. Anderson's question from the public comments section. He said this would be funded out of the General Fund for FY 2019-2020 if this is approved.

Councilmen Biggs and Campbell both expressed their opinions on how necessary, they feel, this study is to move forward with a new law enforcement center in the future. Chairman Cooper agreed with their comments.

Motion to authorize the County Administrator to issue a Request for Proposal for a Space Needs Study for a new Law Enforcement Center was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of Approval of First Reading of Ordinance Number 18-19-760, "An Ordinance Providing for the FY 2019-2020 General Operating Budget and Establishing Ancillary Budgets for Debt Service, E-911 Administration, Industrial Park, Solid Waste Disposal, Victims' Bill of Rights, Emergency Medical Services, Countywide Recreation, Road Maintenance, Tri-County Solicitor, Assistant Solicitor, School Resource Officer #1, School Resource Officer #2, School Resource Officer #3, Event Security, Sheriff Grants, Clerk of Court Grants, Pre-Trial Intervention, SRO Grant, and Domestic Violence."

Mr. Paradise said staff has been working diligently to create the presented budget for FY 2019-2020. He said the General Operating budget is expected to increase \$157,006 and staff is anticipating the use of \$545,207 from the fund balance for general operations in order to balance the expenditures and revenue budgets for the general fund. Mr. Paradise also noted the presented budget will leave 4.6 months of operating expenditures in reserves. Mr. Paradise then went over the memo he'd submitted to Council with staff's recommendation.

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**Memorandum  
County of Edgefield**

To: County Council  
From: Tommy Paradise, County Administrator  
Reference: County Budget 2019-2020  
Date: March 25, 2019

During the budget work session there was discussion by Council of various alternatives to fund the needs of county operations going forward.

**Fund Balance:**

It is essential that Edgefield County maintain adequate levels of fund balance to mitigate current and future risks, such as revenue shortfall and unanticipated expenditures, and to ensure stable tax rates. While the fund balance may be interpreted to some as a "rainy day fund," the fund balance is an integral part of the cash flow allowing county operations to operate without funding concerns. The annual budget year starts July 1<sup>st</sup>, while most of the tax revenue is not received until November and December. A healthy fund balance allows Edgefield County to operate without receiving additional funding from tax anticipation notes until the major portion of revenue is received. After consulting with the County Treasurer and our auditors', staff would recommend a fund balance of no less than 4 months of operations in the fund balance.

Based on the audited reserves of June 30, 2018, the General Fund has a balance of 5,071,723 with \$4,107,222 in cash equivalents or investments. In FY 2018-19, Council designated \$631,837 from the fund balance for the General Fund. The fund balance less the \$631,837 is \$4,439,886, or 5.2 months reserves available.

**Option 1:**

The General Fund budget presented to Council on March 18<sup>th</sup> was for \$10,352,430. After utilizing \$545,207 from the fund balance, the County will have \$3,894,679 or 4.6 months of reserves available. This includes \$31,572 transferred to the Recreation Fund.

However, this budget also supported the issuance of a general obligation bond in the amount of \$475,000 over three years to address capital purchases for technology. These purchases would include replacement of county computers (\$130,000), replacement/upgrade of 10 sheriff's office computers (18,000), updating technology in council chambers (\$25,000), replacing the phone system at the county jail (\$17,500), purchasing of jail management software that is at the end of life (\$50,000), and a records management system for the jail (\$7,000). Also included is a new countywide phone system (\$100,000). The annual cost of this bond should be approximately \$170,000 for three years.

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After further discussions with the County Treasurer and Finance Director it appears that this bond could be serviced using the existing debt service millage. However, when the vehicle bond expires in two years, a reissuance of the bond would increase the millage required.

**Option 2**

If the technology bond is not utilized, another \$140,120 would need to be added to the General Fund additional items to be purchased. These purchases would include a new computer for the auditor's office (\$2,500), new software for auditor to print tax bills for boats and motors (\$7,320), a new computer for the tax collector's office (\$2,300), replacement/upgrade of 10 sheriff's office computers (18,000), a records management system for the sheriff's office (\$7,000), purchasing of jail management software that is at the end of life (\$50,000), and repairs or replacement of the jail's intercom and video (\$13,000), records management system for the sheriff's office (\$7,000). Council has also indicated that they wish to fund \$40,000 for welcome signage in this year's budget. records management system for the sheriff's office (\$7,000) this year's budget.

This would result in utilizing \$685,327 from the fund balance. This would leave a fund balance of \$3,754,599, or 4.4-months reserves.

**Option 3**

Council may also consider utilizing Option #2 while making additional reductions to the budget. These reductions may include:

Land Development Regulation rewrite	\$125,000
Assessor Reassessment Expenses	\$ 2,500
Tax Collector Special Contract	\$ 2,500
Sheriff's Printing and Office Supplies	\$ 2,500
Sheriff's Machine & Equipment	\$ 500
EMA Boarding & Lodging	\$ 1,000
EMA Employee Training	\$ 1,000
EMA Outreach Material	\$ 3,000
LEMPG Special Project	\$ 10,000
Eliminate Part-Time Animal Control Officer	\$ 12,989
Overtime for Animal Control Officer	\$ 2,030
Animal Control Specialized Departments	\$ 2,500
Agriculture Building Repairs	\$ 10,000
ABBE Library Professional Services	\$ 12,200

These reductions would reduce the budget by \$187,719 and result in \$497,608 of the fund balance being brought forward. This would leave a fund balance of \$3,942,318, or 4.6 months reserves.

**Option 4**

Several on Council have expressed support for including the rewriting of the Land Development Regulations. If Option 3 was used without eliminating the rewriting of the Land Development

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Regulations it would result in a reduction of up to \$62,719, which would use \$622,608 of the fund balance. This would result in a fund balance of \$3,817,278, or 4.4 months of reserves.

**Deputy Salary Adjustment**

During the budget work session, Council expressed a desire to increase the starting salary of a sheriff's deputy to be comparable with McCormick and Saluda counties and requested staff to research the costs for council. Additionally, the Sheriff had requested a 5% pay increase for all deputies with the rank of sergeant and below.

Staff has recommended and Council appears to support a \$1,000 pay increase for all full-time county employees. If Council approves one of the options below, Council will need to provide staff direction on if and how the \$1,000 pay increase should be included for the positions affected by the salary adjustment.

Below are several options that Council may consider.

**Option S1**

(5% pay increase for all deputies' sergeant and below who report to the Sheriff)

Salary Increase for road deputies	\$13,086.45
Salary Increase for Corporals	\$12,597.80
Salary Increase for Sergeants	\$ 7,754.30
Total Salary Increases	\$33,438.55
Worker's Comp. Increase	\$ 1,156.97
FICA Increase	\$ 2,558.05
Retirement Increase	\$ 5,764.81
Total Cost to the County	\$42,918.38

Option S1 would increase the amount used from the fund balance by \$42,918.38, or .05 months of reserves.

This option would also provide 60% of the increase to corporals and sergeants, while leaving the starting pay of new deputies below the starting salary of both McCormick and Saluda counties.

**Option S2**

(Increase only road deputy salaries to the level of McCormick County certified deputy salaries which is \$34,364)

McCormick County deputies are paid for 2,236 hours per year which is equal to \$15.37 per hour. Edgefield County deputies are paid for 2,080 hours per year. Therefore, in order to pay the same hourly rate of \$15.37, an Edgefield County Certified Deputy salary would be \$31,969.60 per year.



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Since there are 9 road deputies the increased cost to the county would be as follows:

New Salary	\$287,726.40
Current Salary	\$261,729.00
Difference	\$ 25,997.40
Worker's Comp Increase	\$ 899.51
FICA Increase	\$ 1,988.80
Retirement Increase	\$ 4,481.95
Total Cost to the County	\$ 33,367.66

It should also be noted that McCormick County pays its deputies flexible overtime instead of time and a half time like Edgefield County does. Under flexible overtime, the more overtime hours that the deputy works the less per hour the deputy earns.

Option S2 would increase the amount brought forward from the fund balance by \$ 33,367.66, or an .04 months reserve.

**Option S3**

(Increase only road deputy salaries to the level of Saluda County certified deputies which is \$31,191.11)

Saluda County pays its deputies for 2,080 hours per year just like Edgefield County does. Therefore, if we consider increasing the salaries of the 9 road deputies to \$31,191.11 as Saluda pays, the cost to the county would be as follows:

New Salary	\$280,719.99
Current Salary	\$261,729.00
Difference	\$ 18,990.99
Worker's Comp Increase	\$ 657.09
FICA Increase	\$ 1,452.81
Retirement Increase	\$ 3,274.05
Total Cost to the County	\$ 24,374.94

Option S3 will increase the amount brought forward from the fund balance by \$24,374.94, or .03 months of reserves.

After Mr. Paradise finished his review of the memo to Council, Chairman Cooper thanked staff for working on several options for this budget to try and please all of the Councilmembers and their ideas for the Budget for FY 2019-2020. He went on to say that Councilman Campbell had also prepared some options to review that would alleviate the need for a GO Bond that would cause a tax increase. Chairman Cooper asked Councilman Campbell to review his memo to Council.

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**Budget Option to eliminate the need for a \$475,000 tax increase:**

Note: The \$475,000 proposed Bond is actually a \$347,500 Bond. As it turns out, in working through the various lines items for a Bond, staff made a typo in the final amount of the Bond. So, the good news: It's less money for us to look for.

**How to Handle to Items Currently in the Bond:**

**Yellow Highlights** = Items that can be paid for from current budget, put in next year's budget, purchased over three years, or should be considered in an out-year (1 item).

1. Jail Management Software (\$50,000) Purchase from funds remaining in current year budget surplus funds.
2. Records Management System for Sheriff (\$7,000) Purchase from funds remaining in current year budget surplus funds.
3. Replacement of Sheriff's computers (\$18,000) Purchase part or all from current year budget surplus funds and remainder in next year's budget, if needed
4. Postpone new countywide phone system (\$100,000) While the phone system needs to be upgraded, it was not going to be included in this year's budget requests until the bond was proposed.
5. Computer replacement (\$130,000) The computer system will be replaced over three years with the first installment paid from funds left in current budget surplus funds.
6. Replacing the phone system at the jail (\$17,500) Postpone replacement of the jail phones until next year.
7. Upgrade technology in council chambers (\$25,000) Postpone until next year and take from Council Contingency Fund.

**How to further reduce the General Fund budget to make room for some of the above Bond items:**

**Yellow Highlights** = Items that can be paid for from current budget, reduced from next year's budget, or should be considered in an out-year.

8. Agriculture Building Repairs reduce by (\$10,000) Will leave \$5,000 for ordinary repairs. No special projects expected on this building.
9. Assessor Reassessment Expenses (\$2,500) Delete this amount of money because additional expenses for reassessment can be absorbed in assessor's budget
10. Tax Collector Special Contract reduce by (\$2,500) This item has been trending lower and was reduced from \$42,000 to \$40,000. Another \$2,500 (highlighted in yellow) will reduce to \$37,500, which will under what was needed each of the two past years.
11. Sheriff's Printing and Office Supplies reduced by (\$2,500) Currently budgeted at \$10,500 but only used \$7,393 last year and \$5,278 year to date, so it can be reduced to \$8,000 by removing \$2,500.
12. Sheriff's Machine & Equipment reduce by (\$500) Currently budgeted at \$7,500. Only used \$2,209 in FY 2017-18 and \$3,717 year to date, so can be reduced by \$500.

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13. EMA Boarding & Lodging reduced by (\$1,000) Currently budgeted at \$2,000 last year used \$1,193 and none year to date, so \$1,000 for this line item is sufficient.

14. EMA Employee Training reduced by (\$1,000) Currently budgeted at \$2,000, used \$1,870 last year and \$562 year to date, so \$1,000 for this line item is sufficient.

15. EMA Outreach Material reduced by (\$3,000) Currently budgeted at \$5,000, but can be reduced to \$3,000, which takes care of their needs.

16. LEMPG Special Project (\$10,000) Delete this amount from the budget, which is for a fence to surround the trailers behind EMS. There is enough traffic around EMS trailers 24/7, should it should be safe.

17. Eliminate Part-Time Animal Control Officer (\$12,989) Position has been vacant for some time. Also, we're not going to build animal shelter, so it's not needed.

18. Overtime for Animal Control Officer reduced by (\$1,000) Current budget is \$3,030 and used \$237 last year and none so far this year. Reducing the line item to \$2,030 would be enough money left.

19. Animal Control Specialized Departments reduced by (\$2,500) Currently budgeted for \$5,000, used \$1,038 last year and none so far this year, so \$2,500 would be enough money left.

20. ABBE Library Professional Services reduce line time by (\$12,200) Reducing their line item by this amount gives them the same amount last year. Library remains fully funded.

**Please note: Everything that was recommended for the bond is still being purchased this year or next year or over a three-year period or in an out-year (1 item). I recommended nothing be eliminated from the list of work in the Bond since I believe we all agree that all the items in the Bond need to be addressed.**

The General Fund budget presented to Council on March 18, which included the Bond, after utilizing \$545,207 from the fund balance, the County will have \$3,894,679 or 4.6 months of reserves available.

Using the 20 items recommended above, after utilizing \$482,488 from the fund balance, the County will have \$3,957,398 or 4.6 months of reserves available.

After Councilman Campbell reviewed his memo to Council, Chairman Cooper thanked him for his efforts toward the Budget for FY 2019-2020. He also said that when the finance committee was looking into the Bond Referendum they were trying to include big ticket purchases with a minimal increase to the tax payers. He went on to commend Councilman Campbell for finding a way to fund these items without a tax increase. Chairman Cooper asked Mr. Cooley if Council were to fund 8 through 20 and take that approximate \$62,000 from reserves how much reserves would that use. Mr. Cooley said it would be approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a month. He explained this would leave over 5 months of reserves and he does not recommend dropping below 4 month of reserves. Councilman Biggs said that he was glad the Finance Committee looked at the needs and proposed the GO Bond but he thinks that Councilman Campbell has proven that it is not necessary and he doesn't want to raise the taxes since the money was found. Councilwoman Kennion asked items 17, 18 and 19 go together. Councilman Campbell said that they are all stand-alone line items. She went on to ask if they could be cut all together and Councilman Campbell said they could be but that he was trying to be

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conservative. She also asked Councilman Campbell if he checked with these staff and or these departments to be sure they would be able to get by with these cuts. He said he has talked to staff about these cuts to be sure he didn't hinder any work performance. Councilman Talbert said he also appreciated all of the work that everyone has done to present different ideas to purchase necessary items to maintain efficiency. He said that while he is not in favor of raising taxes at some point there will have to be an increase in taxes and he doesn't want to wait until that amount has to be substantial. He said he believes it would be better to raise taxes in small increments. Chairman Cooper said that he and Councilman Talbert agree that they would like to increase the number of tax payers, not the taxes. He went on to say that they believe it will be better in the future to increase taxes to pay for upgrades for the staff. They both agreed that they were in support of Councilman Campbell's proposal for FY 2019-2020.

Motion to approve first reading of ordinance number 18-19-760 was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Talbert. This entered Council into discussion.

Chairman Cooper said he would take each item in Councilman Campbell's proposal for a vote starting with number 8 moving through number 20.

Motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-760 to include item number 8 in Councilman Campbell's proposal was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Biggs. Motion failed 2-3 with Councilmembers Cooper, Talbert and Kennion voting against.

Motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-760 to include item number 9 in Councilman Campbell's proposal was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Biggs. Motion failed 2-3 with Councilmembers Cooper, Talbert and Kennion voting against.

Motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-760 to include item number 10 in Councilman Campbell's proposal was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Biggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-760 to include item number 11 in Councilman Campbell's proposal was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Biggs. Motion passed 4-1 with Councilwoman Kennion voting against.

Motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-760 to include item number 12 in Councilman Campbell's proposal was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Biggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-760 to include item number 13 in Councilman Campbell's proposal was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-760 to include item number 14 in Councilman Campbell's proposal was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Biggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-760 to include item number 15 in Councilman Campbell's proposal was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Biggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-760 to include item number 16 in Councilman Campbell's proposal was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.



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Motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-760 to include item number 17 in Councilman Campbell's proposal was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-760 to include item number 18 in Councilman Campbell's proposal was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-760 to include item number 19 in Councilman Campbell's proposal was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-760 to include item number 20 in Councilman Campbell's proposal was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Biggs. Motion passed 4-1 with Chairman Cooper voting against.

Motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-760 to include Option S2 from Mr. Paradise's memo was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Campbell said he wanted to be sure that there is no bond or tax increase being considered at this time for the FY 2019-2020 budget. Chairman Cooper told Councilman Campbell he was correct.

Chairman Cooper then called for a vote for the main motion. The vote for the main motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Approval to Authorize the County Administrator to Engage Legal Services from Francenia Heizer of Burr and Forman Law Firm for Issuance of General Obligation Bonds. Chairman Cooper said that after the discussion from Council this item was no longer needed. Councilman Campbell made a motion to table this item, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

**Comments from the Public**

1. James Brodie - Mr. Brodie said that he wanted to speak about former employee, Judge Robert Peeler. He said that he believes Judge Peeler and his ex-wife, Barbara Brodie, conspired against him. He said that it is his opinion that they wanted him to have to file bankruptcy so that she would get half of everything they owned. He went on to say that he has filed a complaint with the Judicial System and he believes they commit fraud and forgery.
2. Rick Berry – Mr. Berry said that he was happy to see the spirited discussion. He said he believes that is healthy for government offices and beneficial to the citizens. Mr. Berry also invited Council to the Interagency Meetings that are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 8:30AM at Piedmont Technical College, Edgefield Campus.

**County Administrator's Report**

Mr. Paradise started his report by telling Council that in the FY2017-2018 budget year, Council appropriated funding to update the E-911 call center to the Nex-Gen E-911. He said this project is complete and went live in March. The Nex-Gen system allows the E-911 operator to receive texts and video, while also having GIS information inter-connected. He went on to say that Edgefield County is



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the third Nex-Gen E-911 system in our 22 state AT&T region to go live. Raleigh, North Carolina and Cherokee County SC are the two other jurisdictions with this capability. Edgefield County received an 80% reimbursement from the state to fund this project.

Next Mr. Paradise said Minister David Stanton of Ireland's State Equality, Immigration, and Integration Department met with Chairman Cooper, Mayor Pettit, and himself to discuss the Irish Travelers. He noted Shane Stephens of Ireland's Consulate in Atlanta also attended.

Mr. Paradise moved on to say that the previous Friday, Edgefield County EMS received delivery of a new ambulance. He said the vehicle still needs to be equipped with radios, equipment, and inspected by DHEC. Staff anticipates this taking a couple of weeks. Another ambulance is included in the proposed FY2019-2020 budget. Staff proposes moving forward with receiving quotes for the additional ambulance so that the bid can be approved in July. He said this should allow the vendor an opportunity to schedule building the vehicle before the 2020 price increase.

Mr. Paradise then told Council the Board of Election and Registration requested several security items during the budget workshop. Staff is in the process of installing security cameras utilizing existing equipment and funds for the Kneece building to accommodate some of their requests.

Next, Mr. Paradise said that he along with Councilman Biggs and Captain Wash met with Sara Lyle of Palmetto Pride. He said the meeting provided information concerning litter education and litter pick-ups. Councilman Biggs and Captain will be working with Mrs. Lyle going forward to work to reduce litter in Edgefield County.

Then Mr. Paradise told Council the Safety Committee met in March and reviewed employee accidents and inspection reports of various county building with an eye to prevent additional accidents. He said this committee meets quarterly and staff is working to provide support and education to the committee that will help prevent employee injuries, on and off work.

Mr. Paradise told Council, the Road Crew and maintenance staff will be attending safety training at the SC Association of Counties. This training is offered by the association for free and will focus on operating machinery, such as lawn mowers, chainsaws, etc. safely.

Mr. Paradise closed his comments by said he, Chairman Cooper and Jennifer Gilley attended the Rural Summit in Orangeburg.

**Comments by County Council Chair**

Chairman Cooper started by thanking everyone for their efforts.

**Executive Session**

None.

**Adjourn**

Councilman Biggs made the motion to adjourn at 7:58PM, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

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H. Scott Cooper, Chair

ATTEST

  
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Jennifer L. Gilley, Clerk to Council