

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

August 12, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument Book Page
201900003183 OR 1755 280

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Monday, August 12, 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

201900003183
Filed for Record in
EDGEFIELD COUNTY, SC
CHARLES L. REEL, CLERK OF COURT
09-04-2019 At 12:31 pm.
Notic nochs .00
OR Book 1755 Page 280 - 284

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 August 12, 2019 agenda was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. This entered Council into discussion.

Motion was made to postpone the Consent Agenda to the September agenda by Chairman Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Mr. Marine explained this needed to be postponed because he needed more time to research a question he'd received earlier that day. He said there was a question about who is supposed to vote on certain members for the GLEAMNS appointments and in his research he has found different answers between State and Federal Law. He said he just wanted to be sure that Edgefield County is handling this correctly. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cooper called for a final vote on the main motion as amended, it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the July 2, 2019 County Council minutes (Regular Meeting of Council) was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Biggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers

1. Sam Crouch, County Transportation Committee

Mr. Crouch told Council that he would like their support in advocating for the Widening of Bettis Academy Road from Hwy 25 to the Aiken Industrial Park. He said this is a project that Edgefield and Aiken Counties would need to collaborate on since the area that needs to be widened runs through both counties. He said there is 1.62 miles in Edgefield County and 1.03 miles in Aiken County that need to be widened. He said the cost would be approximately 4 million for the portion in Edgefield County and approximately 2 million for the portion in Aiken County. Mr. Crouch went on to say that

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

August 12, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument Book Page
201900003183 OR 1755 281

the Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) and the Upper Savannah Council of Governments (USCOG) are possibly going to help fund this project. He said at the last ARTS meeting, they asked that a feasibility study be performed. He also noted that Aiken County would like another portion of Bettis Academy Road studied that would only affect the Aiken County side. This portion of Bettis Academy Road would run from the I-20 to Ascauga Lake Road. Mr. Crouch said this may be added to the original project but the cost for Edgefield County shouldn't be affected since the area is entirely in Aiken County. He said the feasibility study should cost \$20,000-\$40,000. He said he isn't sure how that amount would be split with Aiken County. Councilman Biggs said that he also attended the last ARTS meeting and thought he understood the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) would be funding some of the feasibility study. Mr. Crouch explained that Councilman Biggs was right but that the whole study would cost approximately \$200,000 with SCDOT funding \$160,000, leaving Edgefield and Aiken counties a combined \$40,000. Mr. Crouch closed his comments by saying he is happy to see the ball rolling on this project since he has heard talk about it for many years. He also said he would be attending the upcoming USCOG meeting to see if they would help fund the Edgefield County side of this project since ARTS would be helping fund the Aiken County side of this project. Mr. Paradise said that since the ARTS meeting, he'd heard the \$20,000-\$40,000 would be a 50/50 split between Edgefield and Aiken counties, but that he's not heard this officially. Both Chairman Cooper and Councilman Biggs stated they did not remember a 50/50 split in the motion for the study at the ARTS meeting.

Comments from the Public

None

Reports

There were no questions nor discussion on the reports.

Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 19-20-763, "An Ordinance to Zone 181.02 Acres of Land, more or less, Owned by the City of North Augusta to Planned Development (PD) and Approve the Concept Plan for said Property's Development."
1. Linda Anderson – Mrs. Anderson said that she is concerned the entrances may not have good clearance to see oncoming traffic because of how the property is situated. She said she hoped Ivey Development, LLC would keep this in mind when designing the entrances and exits to the subdivision. She also said she would like to see the Edgefield County School District (ECSD) give a presentation on how they plan to handle the influx in students. She said they just passed the additional millage on tax bills to assist with funding and this subdivision wasn't taken into consideration at that time because the project hadn't been proposed yet. Councilman Cooper told Mrs. Anderson the ECSD meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 13th and that if she could attend, she might be able to address this question with them. Councilman Biggs said that while he hasn't seen a presentation, he does know the ECSD has been working closely with the Edgefield County Planner in regards to Windsor Subdivision.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

August 12, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument Book Page
201900003183 OR 1755 282

Old Business

1. Consideration of Approval of Third Reading of Ordinance Number 19-20-763, "An Ordinance to Zone 181.02 Acres of Land, more or less, Owned by the City of North Augusta to Planned Development (PD) and Approve the Concept Plan for said Property's Development."

Mark Ivey, Ivey Development LLC, told Council that he'd been at the last meeting regarding Windsor Subdivision and had suggested giving them the option to do a traffic circle or a raised intersection. He said after looking into things more, they believe the traffic circle will work the best aesthetically, so Council wouldn't need to make any changes regarding traffic calming devices in the proposed plan.

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 third reading of ordinance number 19-20-763 was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Consideration of Approval of Resolution Number 19-20-1033, "Resolution Supporting and Encouraging the Widening of Bettis Academy Road (S-19-37)."

Mr. Paradise told Council this is the resolution Mr. Crouch was speaking about earlier in the meeting. He said the widening of Bettis Academy Road from the Sage Mill Industrial Park to Hwy 25 is in the County's Strategic Plan. He went on to say the County Transportation Committee and the Economic Development Partnership have gotten an estimated cost of \$6 million for engineering and construction of this project. The Upper Savannah Council of Governments, Lower Savannah Council of Governments, and the Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) are all moving forward to have this project included in their Long-Term Transportation Plan. Mr. Paradise said this resolution will assist with being included in these plans as well as documenting Council's support of the project when seeking funding options.

Motion to approve resolution number 19-20-1033 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Public

1. Linda Anderson – Mrs. Anderson spoke briefly about the Edgefield County Airport. She said next week is South Carolina Aviation Week. She said the Edgefield County Airport doesn't have anything planned for this year but they hope to have something next year for SC Aviation Week. She also reminded everyone of the annual candy drop that is held each year towards the end of October for Halloween.

County Administrator's Report

Mr. Paradise started his report by congratulating the 2019 Edgefield County Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone League All-Stars for their successful season, state championship, and runner-up to the national title. He said county staff is working with the Town of Edgefield to have a victory celebration this Saturday, August 17th at 6 PM on the square in Edgefield. He invited the public to this celebration. He also said that Joe Simpson, Maintenance Supervisor, will be building a trophy case that will put the team's trophy on display in the vacant window of the Kneece building.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

August 12, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument 201900003183 OR Book Page 1755 283

Mr. Paradise then told Council the South Carolina Subcommittee of the Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) has recommended that the widening of Bettis Academy be put on the Long-Range Transportation Plan. In addition, they have recommended repurposing existing funds to conduct a feasibility study from Hwy 25 to Ascauga Lake Road. He said both recommendations will need to be approved by the ARTS Committee.

Mr. Paradise told Council that upon the recommendation of the SC Association of Counties, he was appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs to serve on the state E-911 Advisory Committee. He said this committee is responsible for helping to develop a statewide strategic plan for E-911.

Next, Mr. Paradise stated that he met with the SC Aeronautics Executive Director James Stephens and Commissioner Skeets Cooper regarding the Edgefield County Airport. He said the Commission is reviewing reducing the grant match amounts for small rural airports from 40% to 20%.

Mr. Paradise closed his comments by telling Council the Law Enforcement Space Needs Study had an initial kick-off meeting with representatives from Mosley Architects, Sheriff's Office, Jail, and Magistrates office present. He said staff anticipates the study taking 6 to 8 months to complete.

Councilman Biggs stated that he was pleased to hear Edgefield County had been recognized again by receiving the CAFR award. He also said that he would like to give a litter update. He said that he has been working with the Palmetto Pride Program's Executive Director to include Edgefield County in the Adopt a Highway Program. He said he hopes this will improve the litter along many of our roads but especially Sweetwater Road.

Comments by County Council Chair

Chairman Cooper started by inviting everyone to the celebration that is taking place to recognize the 2019 Edgefield County Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone League All-Stars. He said it will be taking place in the Edgefield Town Square on Saturday, August 17th from 6 to 9PM. He moved on to say that while tonight's agenda was short, there are many things that will be taking shape this coming fall including 4 public meetings regarding the Land Management Ordinance. Chairman Cooper told everyone that he and Councilman Talbert attended this years' South Carolina Association of Counties Annual Meeting. He named some of the classes they took and said they both believe they gained knowledge that will benefit Edgefield County. Chairman Cooper closed his comments by telling everyone there is a mobile app developed by The National Association of Counties, in conjunction with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, the National Association of Development organizations and Farm Credit called TestIT. It was designed to help identify areas that have low or no connectivity to broadband internet. He said this app is available for Android and Apple devices and encouraged everyone to download the app and use it in Edgefield County. He explained the app relays the broadband internet capability samples where it is used and the information is being compiled in a database to show areas that need additional connectivity. The results will be used to help the National Association of Counties and the other agencies listed encourage Congressional and State funding for the expansion of broadband through out the country.

Executive Session

None

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

August 12, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument Book Page
201900003123 OR 1755 284

Adjourn

Councilman Biggs made the motion to adjourn at 6:43PM, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Edgefield County Council



H. Scott Cooper, Chair

ATTEST



Jennifer L. Gilley, Clerk to Council