

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

September 3, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

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201900003537 OR 1760 114

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, September 3, 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

Dean Campbell, Councilman

Dr. Jacqueline Kennion, Councilwoman

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CHARLES L. REEL, CLERK OF COURT
10-02-2019 At 11:53 am.
Notice nochg .00
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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

Members absent

Arthur Biggs, Councilman

*Note: Councilman Biggs was absent leaving a quorum of 4 members present.

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 September 3, 2019 agenda was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the July 30, 2019 County Council minutes (Called Meeting of Council) was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Campbell told Council that he'd made some additional comments at the called Joint Meeting of Council with the Planning Commission and ECWSA that was held on July 30, 2019. He said that he'd spoken with Ms. Gilley and asked her to review the recording to reflect a more detailed account of the discussion. Councilman Campbell gave a handout with the proposed changes to each of the Council members for their review prior to the vote.

Motion to approve the July 30, 2019 County Council minutes as amended by Councilman Campbell's presented request (Called Joint Meeting of Council with the Planning Commission and ECWSA) was made by Chairman Cooper, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the August 12, 2019 County Council minutes (Regular Meeting of Council) was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

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Guest Speakers

None

Comments from the Public

None

Reports

There were no questions nor discussion on the reports.

Public Hearing

None

Old Business

None

New Business

1. Consideration of appointment/reappointment to Planning Commission.
 Brett McNeillAt-Large Appointment
 George Thornton.....At-Large Reappointment
 Motion to approve the appointment of Brett McNeill and the reappointment of George Thornton to the Planning Commission was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of Approval of Resolution Number 19-20-1034, "A Resolution Recognizing 2019 Edgefield County Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone All-Stars."
 Chairman Cooper read the following resolution:

A Resolution Recognizing 2019 Edgefield County Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone All-Stars

WHEREAS, the players of the 2019 Edgefield County Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone All-Star team consisted of Evan Bates, Cole Beagles, Gage Cockrell, Addison Faust, Justus Hammett, Daley Hitt, Keith Newsome-Jones, Brayden McAllister, Darius Simpkins, Ethan Stovall, Griffin Thompson, and Jay Willis with John Brown Jr. as Manager and coached by WC Wall and Derrick Bates; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Edgefield County Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone All-Stars outscored their opponents 53-0 in 5 games to win the District 3 Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Edgefield County Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone All-Stars won 6 straight games to win the South Carolina Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone State Championship; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Edgefield County Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone All-Stars made history by becoming the first Edgefield County's first state champions in Dixie Youth Baseball; and

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WHEREAS, the 2019 Edgefield County Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone All-Stars broke State Tournament records for the most strike-outs in a single game (27) and for playing the longest game played (10 innings); and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Edgefield County Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone All-Stars finished as runner-up in the Dixie Youth Baseball World Series.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Edgefield County Council in session duly assembled this Third day of September 2019 that the 2019 EDGEFIELD COUNTY DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL OZONE ALL-STARS be honored for their services to the citizens of Edgefield County.

The resolution is to recognize the achievements of the 2019 Edgefield County Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone Team, The team outscored their opponents 53-0 in the District 3 tournament and advanced to take the state championship by defeating their opponents in 6 straight games with no losses. The team set records in the state championship for the most strike-outs in a single game (27) and the longest game (10) innings. The team finished runner up in the Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone World Series.

Motion to approve resolution number 19-20-1034 was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of Approval of Resolution Number 19-20-1035, "A Resolution Recognizing the Accomplishments and Works of Judge Brenda B. Carpenter."
Chairman Cooper read the following resolution:

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND WORKS OF
JUDGE BRENDA B. CARPENTER**

WHEREAS, Edgefield County Council wishes to recognize those persons who have dedicated their lives to provide services to the citizens of Edgefield County; and

WHEREAS, Judge Brenda B. Carpenter served as Magistrate of Edgefield County from 1997 through 2019 and provided the citizens of Edgefield County with 22 years of dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, Judge Brenda B. Carpenter faithfully executed her responsibilities to the citizens of Edgefield County upholding the integrity and independence of the judiciary; avoiding impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all of her activities; remained impartial and diligent in exercising her duties; conducted herself in a manner of her extra-judicial activities as to minimize the risk of conflict with her judicial obligations; refrained from inappropriate political activity; and

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WHEREAS, through Judge Brenda B. Carpenter's commitment, compassion, and ethical leadership to the community Judge Brenda B. Carpenter has provided the citizens of Edgefield County dedicated service exceeding expectations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Edgefield County Council in session duly assembled this Third day of September 2019 that Judge Brenda B. Carpenter be honored for her services to the citizens of Edgefield County.

Motion to approve resolution number 19-20-1035 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Approval of the Tax Millage Rate for FY 2019-2020.

County Auditor Bill Gilchrist explained that he had been working with Finance Director Bruce Cooley, Treasurer Arlene Traxler, Tax Assessor Gerri Coleman, and Administrator Tommy Paradise to determine the County's millage rate for the tax bills to be mailed in late September. He said based on the assessed values of homes, business, vehicles, etc. the County saw a slight increase in the value of a mill from \$78,560 to \$81,197. He noted there is no proposed change in the tax levy.

Mr. Gilchrist also told Council the way boats and motors have been taxed is going to change in the future. He said currently boats and motors are taxed for the year that has passed but will start being taxed for the upcoming year, like vehicles are taxed. He said he believes that after the initial change, this system will work better.

Motion to approve the Tax Millage Rate for FY 2019-2020 as presented by Auditor, Bill Gilchrist, was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Approval of First Reading of Ordinance Number 19-20-764, "An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 24 of the Edgefield County Land Development Ordinance."

Mr. Paradise told Council that at the July 11, 2019 Planning Commission meeting the Commission reviewed and discussed a report prepared by staff comparing Edgefield County's Planned Development application fee to those of surrounding Counties and Municipalities, as well as nearby Counties in Georgia and other Counties in South Carolina. He explained that staff originally recommended to the Planning Commission that they consider recommending the amendment of Ordinance Sec. 24-29 to County Council to bring the County's fee down so that it will be more in line with what is seen elsewhere. He went on to say that at the August 8, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting the Commission unanimously voted to recommend that County Council to change the application fee for a Planned Development from a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$1,000.

Motion to approve first reading of ordinance number 19-20-764 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of Approval of Design of Gateway Signs.

Mr. Paradise said the Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan identifies a goal to identify and implement gateway signage and landscaping in accord with updated County "branding." He presented the following memorandum:

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Memorandum
County of Edgefield

To: County Council
From: Tommy Paradise, County Administrator
Reference: Gateway Signage
Date: August 16, 2019

The Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan identifies a goal to “identify and implement gateway signage and landscaping in accordance with updated County “branding.” This project is scheduled to begin in 2020 and be completed by 2022. This project is also included in the Strategic Plan.

A committee composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Clerk to Council, and County Administrator has been reviewing options and locations where signage could be placed.

In order to be placed in SCDOT right-of-way, the signage must meet certain standards that allow the signs to break away upon impact. Staff has talked with our sign contractor, Penny’s Posies and such, in Trenton and found that he is capable of providing such signage.

Included with the memorandum is a document showing the standard models available from our vendor. Costs can be reduced by using one of these standardized forms. The committee reviewed the standard models and recommends model #51.

The committee also looked at the colors and font for the proposed signage. Included with the memorandum are three pages with different renders of model #51. The committee would recommend a green sign with burgundy border. The sign would include the Edgefield County logo and the letters Edgefield County in white under the logo. This sign is located on the bottom right corner of the sheet. Model #51 is a 4’ high x 6’ wide sign. The sign vendor has some concerns about visibility on higher speed roads. So, I have also attached a drawing of a 6’ high x 6’ wide sign that is recommended by our vendor for 55 mph roads. The proof with the two sizes side-by-side you will note the height of the capital E & C in each sign. Also, on the 6’ tall sign, the seal is about 12% larger. The colors would be changed to correspond with the color scheme cited above.

As always, staff will work to do the project by most cost-efficient means. The cost of a 4’ high x 6’ wide sign is \$4,806 each and a 6’ high x 6’ wide sign is \$5,948 per sign. This price is having everything shipped and ordering one at a time. Staff may be able to have the shipping costs reduced by having the vendor pick the signs up.

In addition to the cost for the sign, will be cost for installation and landscaping. It is anticipated that our road crew will be able to provide our sign vendor with a pad on which to install the sign. The cost for installation will be between \$500 & \$600 per sign.

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In regards to landscaping, staff would recommend construction of a border of 4"x4" treated lumber and to fill the empty area with rock screenings. The size of this area would be an 8' x 4' border, putting down landscape fabric and cover with 3" of screenings. The treated lumber would be secured with x 2 – 24" (per timber) rebar drilled through post and hammered flush. Each corner would have a Deck Grade "L" bracket installed. This would provide a stable, attractive base area for the sign to enhance and protect. Cost would be \$450 per sign.

The committee recommended installing the gateway signs at the following location:

1. Hwy 25 Coming at Aiken County Line (4 x 6)
2. Hwy 25 Coming at Greenwood County Line (6x 6)
3. Martintown Road Coming at Aiken County Line (4 x 6)
4. Bettis Academy Road Coming at Aiken County Line (4 x 6)
5. Hwy 23 Coming at McCormick County Line (6 x 6)
6. Hwy 283 Coming at McCormick County Line (6 x 6)
7. Hwy 378 Coming at McCormick County Line (6 x 6)
8. Sweetwater Road Coming at Aiken County Line (4 x 6)
9. Hwy 19 Coming at Aiken County Line (6 x 6)
10. Hwy 23 Coming at Saluda County Line (6 x 6)
11. Hwy 121 at Saluda County Line County Line (6 x 6)
12. Callison Hwy and McCormick County Line (6 x 6)
13. Hwy 378 and Saluda County Line (6 x 6)

County Council has set aside \$75,000 in escrow for this project. A worst-case scenario using four 4' high x 6' wide signs and nine 6' wide x 6' high signs with maximum shipping costs, maximum installation and landscape costs estimates the project to be \$85,776. Staff will attempt to reduce these costs where possible, but will probably exceed the \$75,000 in escrow. County Council has \$36,824 available in Council contingency funds as well.

Council had brief discussion about pricing and ways to save money. Mr. Summer said that due to shipping the best way to order these signs is four at a time but at the very least two at a time. He also noted these signs are movable. Councilman Campbell said that he would like to see the words "Welcome to" added to the sign above the logo. He said he likes everything else the committee recommended. Chairman Cooper said that he'd spoken to Councilman Biggs prior to the meeting and he is happy with the design that was presented. He did say that Councilman Biggs asked about the durability of the signs. Mr. Summer said they are durable. He said he has some that are approximately 10 years old that still look good but that signs will need to be repainted at some point in the future. Chairman Cooper said Councilman Biggs did make the suggestion of possibly buying 4 to start with and make sure that everyone approves of them before buying 13. Councilman Talbert agreed with Councilman Campbell about adding the "Welcome to" each of the signs. Mr. Summer said that prior to ordering he would submit a final mock-up for Council to approve. Mr. Paradise said that if Council decides to move forward with purchasing four signs to begin with, staff will need direction on where those four signs are to be placed. He also noted that staff will need to submit a variance request for each sign and he didn't know if he should apply for all 13 locations at once or just a few at the time.

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Chairman Cooper asked Mr. Paradise if there is a time limit on the application after it has been approved. Mr. Paradise said he wasn't sure. Chairman Cooper and Councilwoman Kennion asked why the 6' x 6' signs were recommended versus the 4' x 6' signs. Mr. Paradise said he chose the size based on the speed limit of where the sign would be located. He explained that if a citizens is going over 55MPH it will be easier to read the larger sign and if they are going under 55MPH, the person/people would be able to read the smaller sign. Council decided to order all larger signs.

Motion to approve the design of the gateway signs as discussed (13 signs 6' x 6' with the language "Welcome to Edgefield County" and the Edgefield County logo) was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Talbert. This entered Council into discussion.

Councilman Campbell said he would like to go ahead and buy all of the signs at the estimated \$90,000. He explained there is already \$75,000 in escrow for these signs and the additional money could come from the Professional Services fund in the County Administrator's Budget. Councilman Campbell made a friendly amendment to include the payment information, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Councilwoman Kennion asked if the fonts at the top of the sign and the bottom of the sign would be that same. Mr. Summer said they would and he would put together a final design and give it to each Councilmember for approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Public

None

County Administrator's Report

Mr. Paradise started his report by telling Council on August 17th the community came together and recognized the achievements of the Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone team. He said staff has received positive comments concerning the event. He also reported the trophy case is ready to be completed once the trophies are ready to be displayed.

Mr. Paradise then told Council, Lee Ann Anderson, Human Resource Manager, has been elected to serve as president of the SCAC Human Resources Association.

Next Mr. Paradise said Edgefield County partnered with the Edgefield County School District last year to provide apprenticeship positions to two Strom Thurmond High seniors. He said staff is currently in the selection process for two students for this year's apprenticeship positions in Building and Planning and the Maintenance Department.

Mr. Paradise then moved on to report the Land Management Ordinance Steering Committee held their first meeting on August 27, 2019. He said the Committee and consultant will hold listening meetings for public input on October 15, 16, 17, and 21. The meetings will be held in Northside, Johnston, Merriwether and Edgefield respectively. Locations for the meeting are being determined. He also said there is a sign-up link on the county website to provide an email for updates and news concerning the LMO process for anyone wishing to receive updates.

Mr. Paradise said the Law Enforcement Space Needs Study surveys have been completed by staff and returned to Mosley Architects.

Mr. Paradise closed his comments by telling Council the annual audit is scheduled to begin October 21, 2019.

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Comments by County Council Chair

Chairman Cooper thanked everyone that helped organize the event that was held on Saturday, August 17, 2019 to honor the 2019 Edgefield County Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone All-Star Team.

Executive Session

Actions may be taken in public session on matters discussed in Executive Session including contractual matters.

Matter to be discussed in executive session is legal advice concerning the appointment of a person to a public body [30-4-70(a)(1)].

Motion to enter executive session was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

When Council returned from Executive Session Councilman Talbert made a motion to enter open session, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

Business Following Executive Session

1. Consideration of reappointment to GLEAMNS.

Louise Kemp-SettlesPublic Sector

James BibbsPrivate Sector

Monica MimsLow Income

Chairman Cooper said that they would take each appointment individually.

Motion to reappoint Louise Kemp-Settles was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

There was no motion to reappoint James Bibbs. This item of business failed due to a lack of a motion.

Motion to reappoint Monica Mims was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cooper asked if there was any discussion on the open seat. Councilwoman Kennion made a motion to appoint Willie Bright to the open seat on the GLEAMNS Board, seconded by Councilman Talbert. This entered Council into discussion. Councilman Campbell said since there is no talent bank form, he wanted to be sure there were no reasons Mr. Bright wouldn't be able to serve on the GLEAMNS Board. He said Mr. Bright serves on the County Transportation Committee and he wants to be sure this wouldn't be considered dual office holding. Mr. Marine said he would need to do further research on this topic. Councilwoman Kennion withdrew her motion. Councilman Talbert withdrew his second.

Adjourn

Councilman Talbert made the motion to adjourn at 7:18PM, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

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Edgefield County Council


H. Scott Cooper, Chair

ATTEST


Jennifer L. Gilley, Clerk to Council