

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 17, 2020

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument 202000001202 OR Book Page 1794 336

The Edgefield County Council held a called meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, March 17, 2020 in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield, SC. Notice of this meeting was provided to 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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EDGEFIELD COUNTY, SC
CHARLES L. REEL, CLERK OF COURT
04-09-2020 At 11:42 am.
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Others present

Tommy Paradise, County Administrator
Dana Waters, Finance Director
Jennifer Gilley, Clerk to Council
Andrew Marine, County Attorney
and others as per list attached

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was then recited.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the March 17, 2020 agenda was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Biggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Public

None

New Business

1. Consideration of Approval of Resolution Number 19-20-1098, "A Resolution Authorizing the County Administrator to suspend all Recreational Department activities until March 31, 2020 or later as Mitigation efforts for the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Mr. Paradise stated that on March 15, 2020, Governor McMaster ordered all public schools to be closed until March 31, 2020 and further requested no gathering of 100 or more people as mitigation actions for the COVID-19 virus. On March 16th, the County Administrator suspended recreation program activities that provides for gathering spots for youth and families of our County to comply with Governor McMaster's order until such time as County Council could hear the matter. This resolution authorizes the continued suspension of the recreational activities until March 31, 2020 and authorizes the Administrator to extend the length of suspension if deemed appropriate for the health and safety of the citizens of Edgefield County.

Motion to approve resolution number 19-20-1098 was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

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2. Consideration of Approval of a Prioritized List of Recommended Projects from County Council to the Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) Committee.

Chairman Cooper said that as everyone knows, County Council was presented with a list of items to be presented to the CPST Committee at the March 3, 2020 County Council Meeting. He said there was discussion amongst Council members that related to having discussion for this list at this called meeting or at the regularly scheduled April County Council meeting. He said this project is an expedited project and for the public to pass a CPST it would have to be on the November 2020 ballot. He said that in order for this to be on the November 2020 ballot, it would have to be submitted to the State by August 2020. Chairman Cooper said this would also require 3 readings of an ordinance by Council and that due to the time line, he didn't see the need to wait to have this discussion until the April 2020 Council meeting. He said everything that will be discussed is known by the public and the public knew this would be discussed at this meeting tonight. He then asked Council if they had any comments.

Councilman Campbell said there should still be plenty of time with the timeline Chairman Cooper just reviewed. He said at the last meeting (March 3, 2020) the County Administrator as well as the Chairman stated this item would be taken up for a vote at the April 7, 2020 regularly scheduled County Council meeting. He said that was also reported in the newspaper and he doesn't know if the public is aware of this change or not. Councilman Campbell said that he realizes the CPST will meet March 23rd and that they will meet many times after that. He said he believes holding this item of business at this meeting is not being transparent because the county isn't doing what staff said would be done. He said this can be taken up at the April Meeting and then CPST will meet the whole month of April. He said if they are able to finish this in one meeting, he doesn't believe it will be quality work. He explained something of this magnitude would take multiple meetings.

Councilman Campbell made a motion to table until the April 7, 2020 regularly scheduled County Council Meeting. This was seconded by Councilman Biggs. This entered Council into discussion. Councilman Campbell said that he would like to add that the information presented in the memorandum that was provided (See Below) has already been seen by the CPST Committee. He said Mr. Paradise showed them this information in a PowerPoint Presentation at a previous meeting. He also said most of these were brought up at the March 3, 2020 Meeting. He said he doesn't believe this will leave the CPST Committee in the dark. Councilman Biggs said that he received emails from some of his constituents that criticized the CPST. He said he would like to have this at the April 7, 2020 meeting so that more of the public is aware of what is going on and can make plans to attend that meeting to voice their opinions. Chairman Cooper said the CPST Committee is like any other committee or commission in that the constituents can reach out to the CPST Committee members to voice their comments and concerns. He said he believes the comments from Council are important to the overall well-being of the entire county. He said doesn't believe there is anything non-transparent about discussing this item of business at this meeting. Councilman Talbert said he had concerns about this being passed. He explained that if he has more time to talk to his constituents to help them understand the CPST and what the county would like to do with the money, he believes it will stand a better chance of passing and he doesn't want this to fail by rushing the vote from Council. Councilman Talbert asked Mr. Paradise if holding this until April 7, 2020 would make the CPST Committee run out of time. Mr. Paradise reviewed the process and said they

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would be able to finish but the more time they had, the better. Chairman Cooper said he feels it would be best for them to receive the information so they have longer for their discussion and then they can make their decision. Councilman Biggs said he would rather have a called meeting regarding the CPST at the end of the process rather than the beginning. Motion passed 4-1 with Chairman Cooper voting against.

**Memorandum
County of Edgefield**

To: County Council

From: Tommy Paradise, County Administrator

Reference: Capital Project Sales Tax Project Recommendations

Date: March 12, 2020

At their February meeting, County Council established a Capital Project Sales Tax Commission (CPST Commission). This committee will soon start meeting with a compressed timeline for completion with submittal of the ballot to County Council for approval. Staff would recommend that Council establish a list of projects and the amount of money to be appropriated for each to be sent to the CPST Commission for their consideration. The CPST Commission will have the final say on the projects on the ballot that will come to Council for your approval.

The CPST is estimated to generate approximately \$15,145,902 for capital projects. The CPST Commission can distribute this funding for projects as they determine. In order to get fair representation for all of the entities involved, staff would recommend distribution based on ~~population from the last census after \$10 million has been earmarked for a new detention center.~~ Below is a possible funding amount based on population with \$10 million taken out for the detention center.

Government	Population	Percentage	Distribution Est.
		\$15,145,902.00	\$5,145,902.00
Edgefield County	19,492	0.616098912	\$3,170,384.63
Town of Edgefield	4,750	0.243689719	\$1,254,003.41
Town of Johnston	2,362	0.121177919	\$623,569.70
Town of Trenton	196	0.010055407	\$51,744.14
City of North Augusta	175	0.008978042	\$46,200.13
EC Gross Population 26,975			
* population based on 2010 census			

Based on the distribution of revenues by population, EC would receive \$3.1 million for capital projects. Since EC partners with the towns for the use of their facilities for recreation, it would be appropriate to include some of EC's funding to improve town recreational facilities.

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At the March meeting of County Council, the list was reviewed by Council and added to the list was \$50,000 for the Johnston Armory improvement. This addition in included below.

Staff would recommend that Council review the proposed projects and make any additions or deletions of projects and any changes in funding amounts. Council may also wish to rank the proposed projects in priority order. If Council approves the recommendations, they will be forwarded to the CPST Commission as information for their consideration to be placed on the CPST ballot.

Proposed Projects	Funding Amount
Additional EMS Station	\$500,000.00
Replacement Ambulance	\$200,000.00
Broadband Infrastructure/Improvement	\$500,000.00
Courthouse Improvements	\$50,000.00
Fire Department Radio Upgrade	\$500,000.00
Improvements to Bettis Park	\$100,000.00
Park in Merriwether Area	\$1,000,000.00
Edgefield Town Gym Facility Improvements	\$50,000.00
Edgefield Town Baseball Facility Improvements	\$50,000.00
Johnston Town Baseball Facility Improvements	\$50,000.00
Rails to Trails Land Purchase and Improvements	\$50,000.00
Johnston Town Armory Facility Improvements	\$50,000.00
Total Funding for Projects	\$3,100,000.00

Adjourn

Councilman Campbell made the motion to adjourn at 6:17PM, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Edgefield County Council



H. Scott Cooper, Chair

ATTEST



Jennifer L. Gilley, Clerk to Council