

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

April 7, 2020

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

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The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, April 7, 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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Others present

Tommy Paradise, County Administrator
Dana Waters, 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 following invocation was given by Chairman Cooper.

I want to share the prayer that was offered by the National Guard Chaplain, at the beginning of South Carolina Governor McMaster's Covid-19 Update Tuesday afternoon, March 31, 2020.

"Ronald Reagan said all great change in America begins at the dinner table. So, if you would, please pray with me.

Gracious Lord while our hearts continue to grieve for those we have lost due to the virus, I pray that you would comfort those families and also Lord that you would bring a sense of comfort to those that are isolated and can't have human connection, even with social distancing.

Help us as a people to rally around what's been asked of us. To keep loved ones and strangers alike safe. May we use this extra time to find ways to reconnect with our families, around dinner plates at home instead of hurried meals on the go, around home plate at the baseball fields, lacrosse fields, soccer fields and various activities that occupy our time. I pray, we're able to embrace the moment of this pause, to reassess priorities, find peace and simplicity, and to restore our connectedness, around the dinner table."

Amen.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was then recited.

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Chairman Cooper did note that one Councilmember was not physically in the County Council Chambers but was phoned into the meeting and would be participating via phone line. He did ask for everyone's patience and understanding as this was the first time this method had been used in Edgefield County.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the April 7, 2020 agenda, as amended, was made by Councilman Talbert, and seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the January 27, 2020 County Council minutes (Intergovernmental Meeting) was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the March 3, 2020 County Council minutes (Regular Meeting of Council) was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the March 17, 2020 County Council minutes (Called Meeting) was made by Councilwoman Kennion, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers

None

Comments from the Public

*Ms. Gilley read the public comments that were received via email.

1. Linda Anderson – This regards the Capital Projects Sales Tax Priority List. It is my opinion that what is needed now, if at all, is the priority need as expressed on several occasions by Tommy Paradise and Art Biggs, among others. It has been stated that Edgefield County is at a critical point for the new jail/detention center directive. As stated, SC has given the County waivers and additional opportunities to fix this problem and we are running out of time. As stated in the exhibited memo for the suggested list: The CPST is estimated to generate \$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. Then the list is shown below.

The estimated cost for the detention center was stated to be \$17 million - \$22 million. If the projected revenue is \$15,145,902 that still leaves a deficit between \$2,854,098 and \$ 6,854,098 and that is if the revenue projections have not changed with this recent economic hit our nation has taken and still is taking. While it has been stated that in order to get this passed you have to offer something for the voters to buy into, I would hope that the citizenry understands this is not a time for frills. I believe the focus should be on meeting the critical needs of the County and at some point, down the road, look at other desires. Ultimately, the CPST Committee will determine what funding and projects will be placed on the CPST referendum ballot for citizens to vote on in November. While the committee can look at what other areas want to fund, this County should recommend what is in the best interest of

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the County and since this is a critical need for the whole County this should be their priority. Total funding for the detention center through the CPST should be the recommendation to offer a better chance for this critical need to be funded and the CPST referendum to get approved by voters.

2. Megan Pearson – I see some issues with the following: 100,000.00 to Bettis Park, which Edgefield leases and does not own. However, Edgefield does own the baseball complexes and the town gym. They are in need of major improvements and have been for a very long time, yet it is suggested to fund Bettis Park at double the amount suggested for property that is currently owned by Edgefield County or City. Not only this, but the soccer complex is currently "condemned" and cannot be used by the county soccer league yet it isn't mentioned here at all. Common sense dictates the county properties in dire need of upkeep should be priority when it comes to taxation. A rail trail is the least of our worries and a completely UNNEEDED item at the moment. Our country's economy has taken a huge blow recently, the effects of which are yet to be seen. Needs, not wants should be the county's ONLY priority at this point in time. I, and other's I have spoken too, will not support this CPST referendum were it to appear as suggested on the upcoming November ballot. Our county jail should be the number one priority and it should have been the number one priority for quite some time now.
3. Carole Lee - I respectfully suggest Council seriously discuss putting the whole amount toward the new detention center/jail that we've been warned about being shut down if we don't make the necessary maintenance and repairs. Properly worded, the people should understand and agree to this. If you're considering other arrangements for housing prisoners/detainees that we haven't heard about yet, you should make and approve a provision that says something like "All CPST monies will go toward a new facility. If other arrangements for prisoners/detainees is made, the entire list of possible projects will be reevaluated and a list made for consideration at that time." I understand y'all work on a tight budget and do a lot with what you get. However, I believe that to be truly fiscally responsible we should postpone any unnecessary purchases (such as property for the rail trail) and new expenditures (such as a park in Merriwether) and focus on 1) current maintenance and repair needs to our county's infrastructure, and 2) acquiring more emergency management people (fire, police, 911, etc.) - or at least paying the ones we do have more. I hope you'll seriously consider my suggestions. Thank you for your time.
4. Sam Crouch - I would urge council to make a new jail your top priority. Second, maintenance of existing properties should take priority over new projects. As you know, the CTC has had policy of not paving dirt roads for lack of money. We have concentrated on maintaining the current paved road system. I urge council to take this same approach. Thank you. Sam Crouch

Reports

There was no discussion nor questions on the reports.

Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 19-20-767, "An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 42-10 of the Edgefield County Solid Waste Ordinance."
There were no comments regarding this public hearing.

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Old Business

- 1. Consideration of Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 19-20-767, "An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 42-10 of the Edgefield County Solid Waste Ordinance."

Mr. Paradise stated there have been no changes regarding this ordinance. There was no discussion. Motion to approve second reading of ordinance number 19-20-767 was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Cooper stated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and it's uncertainty, no one knows how this will affect the county economically. Chairman Cooper said that because of this he wanted to make a motion to continue this item of business, to be revisited at a future date and stated that the CPST issue would likely be put on the November 2022 ballot due to the lack of time to complete this with COVID-19 causing meetings to be delayed and or cancelled. This was seconded by Councilman Talbert and that entered Council into discussion. Mr. Marine told Chairman Cooper that he would need to "table the motion rather than continue the motion." Chairman Cooper said that he was under the impression that continuing the motion would allow for that item of business to come back at a later date but that tabling the item of business would kill the item of business. Mr. Marine said tabling doesn't kill an item of business. Chairman Cooper reworded his motion to use the language, Motion to table this item of business, this was seconded by Councilman Talbert. This entered Council back into discussion. Councilman Biggs said that he would like the future date to be specified so there wouldn't be any confusion. He said it could be put off month to month and taken up when appropriate. Councilman Campbell asked Chairman Cooper if the intent of the motion was to kill the CPST until the 2022 ballot or to put it off until Council can discuss it, when the virus is over and Council knows more about where the economy is at that time. Chairman Cooper said that his intent was just to put this off until the COVID-19 situation has been resolved. Chairman Cooper then made a friendly amendment to the motion. His motion was to table this item of business until the May 2020 meeting, seconded by Councilman Talbert. All of Council was in agreement and there was no more discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- 1. Consideration of reappointment to the Building Code Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

Louis Jackson.....Electric Contractor

Motion to reappoint Louis Jackson to the Building Code Board of Adjustments and Appeals was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Consideration of Approval of Awarding Bid Number 03-11-2020-1000 – VHF Repeaters.

Bidder Information	Bid Amount
Mobile Communications America 4405 Dorchester Road North Charleston, SC 29405	\$5,921.00

Mr. Paradise said Edgefield County EMA staff has reviewed the bid for the VHF Repeater Project and are recommending that the bid be awarded to Mobile Communications America in the amount of \$5,921.00. Mobile Communications was the only bidder that qualified. This is the second time this

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project was put out to bid. He explained the first time it was put out to bid, there were no bidders. He also said this bid is \$1,500 below what staff was estimating for the project and would be funded with the Local Emergency Management Programmatic Grant. Mr. Paradise said the project is for two VHF repeaters. One repeater is designated to replace the EMS Channel repeater that is over 25 years old and the other repeater will serve as a backup repeater in case, a repeater goes down.

Councilman Campbell asked if the grant would cover the project in full. Mr. Paradise said that was correct. Councilman Talbert said he had a concern with awarding a bid that only received one bid. He wanted to be sure that all of the vendors would have seen this bid package. Mr. Paradise said the bid package was put out twice in the newspaper, on the website and with SCBO. Mrs. Spurgeon also added there was an additional bidder but that bidder was disqualified because they turned the bid into the wrong location after the due date and time specified in the bid package.

Motion of awarding bid number 03-11-2020-1000 – VHF Repeater was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of Approval of the First Reading of Ordinance Number 19-20-768, “An Ordinance Providing for the FY 2020-2021 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, Road Maintenance, Tri-County Solicitor, Assistant Solicitor, School Resource Officer #1, School Resource Officer #2, School Resource Officer #3, School Resource Officer #4, School Resource Officer #5, Event Security, Sheriff Grants, Clerk of Court Grants, Pre Trial Intervention, SRO Grant, and Criminal Domestic Violence”

Mr. Paradise started by saying the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Operating budget and revenue fund budgets as proposed include a General Fund budget of \$11,225,952 including hospital and recreation funding. He said the county is anticipating the use of \$127,321 from the fund balance for general operations in order to balance the expenditures and revenue budgets for the general fund. He went on to say this budget will leave 4.8 months of operating expenditures in reserves. Mr. Paradise then went over the memorandum with proposed changes to the budget that he’d included in the exhibit. It read:

County Council conducted a budget workshop on March 17th. Based on the discussions during that meeting staff would recommend Council approve making some modifications to the proposed general fund budget. Those changes would include:

- 1) *Clerk of Court’s office increasing membership and dues from \$300 to \$500, boarding and lodging from \$2,000 to \$2,500, employee training from \$1,500 to \$2,000, and office machines from \$1,500 to \$3,500.*
- 2) *Sheriff’s Office decreasing the automotive operating expense from \$170,000 to \$160,000.*

This would result in the general fund decreasing from \$11,293,752 to \$11,225,952 and reduce the balance brought forward from \$134,121 to \$127,321. This will leave a fund balance for \$4,567,389 or 4.8 months.

Chairman Cooper added that Council discussed compensation for the team members at the budget work session as well. He said he was pleased with the 4.8 months in reserves. He said this put the county in a good situation especially with the COVID-19 pandemic and not knowing how this would affect the

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economy. He also asked Mr. Paradise to discuss what the finance committee suggested for raises. Mr. Paradise said sworn employees (deputies, jailors, dispatchers, etc.) will receive a \$2,000 increase. He went on to say that all non-sworn employees (office workers, EMS, etc.) will receive a \$1,000 increase. He explained raises in a flat amount rather than percentage are fairer because a 5% increase is much larger for an employee with a higher salary than a person with a lower salary. Chairman Cooper said the ultimate goal is to be as competitive as possible with surrounding counties/municipalities.

Motion to approve second reading of ordinance number 19-20-768 was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilman Campbell. This entered Council into discussion.

Councilman Campbell said that he would be making two recommendations for amendments that related to a broader theme. He said he believes everyone knows what COVID-19 is and how is affecting the economy. He said no one knows what will happen to the economy moving forward and that makes the proposed budget crucial. He said he thinks Council should be very careful with this budget. Councilman Campbell went on to say he thinks several things can be changed to help the county moving forward and that he was pleased with the minimal amount being used out of reserves to fund the budget. He said he believes since the county is navigating these unknowns, he believes County Council should focus locally. He went on to say that from a local standpoint, he wanted to remind everyone the current budget has \$2,000 budgeted for the Burton Center in regards to mental health. He said he spoke against it at the time. He said he knows mental health is extremely important but he thinks since they receive State and Federal funding, the county shouldn't be budgeting money for agencies funded by the State and Federal Government. He said he doesn't think the county should fund any state agencies. He explained this by saying:

What about the Department of Social Services: Don't our Edgefield County children deserve more help? DSS takes care of many areas of family life, but don't abused children deserve our support? Why would we turn our backs on that mission by not adding in some money?

And how about the Health Department: Rural health care in small counties is always below what bigger cities and counties can do. Why would we abandon health care for the young, the old, and the affirmed? Aren't we concerned about health care for our citizens? Why do we turn our backs on them by not adding in some money?

Medically indigent: We have those who can't afford to pay for health care, such as those who visit our hospital's emergency room for routine health care needs. Don't they need proper care? Shouldn't we pay more for them than we're doing now to ensure those who truly can't pay, get more health assistance?

What about the alcohol and drug abuse state agencies here: Are we going to say that helping those with additions to drugs and alcohol are less important? Don't they deserve more funding since we all know that these additions fuel domestic abuse, crime sprees, and other societal problems that occur in Edgefield County every week?

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And how about the employment and social security office? Don't we want people to work? For those who can't work, don't we want them to receive benefits promptly? Why can't we help that office be more family friendly and give them County funding to make that experience better for our citizens?

What about our County Agent and our Soil and Water conservation services? Are we not an agricultural county? Since our Chairman has a farm, he understands that farming is key to our economy in Edgefield County. Why are we not helping the agencies that help the farmers?

I haven't discussed many other state organizations that work in our county, like Youth Services and Probation and Parole offices, but I believe we could make a reasoned argument why we should support them, too.

And what about the Edgefield County School District? Who can say the educating of the children isn't the most important thing we can do as a free society? Now, you can say that citizens are already paying taxes to the School District to provide that valuable service, and you'd be absolutely right. But our citizens already pay taxes on everything else I've mentioned. So what's the difference? Why do we want to make winners and losers in the race for County tax money, particularly when we don't have the money to give away more money to those agencies already funded by state government, and in some cases, by the County because state law requires it?

The overriding answer is one we all know in our hearts: We can't fund everything.

Councilman Campbell said he didn't think any of the Council members would be able to tell him where the \$2,000 was spent because it is mingled with their other funds. He said if the money "got a seat at the table" he'd like to know what was accomplished for Edgefield County citizens by "that seat." He went on to offer an alternative. He explained that he would like to see County Council focus locally. He also noted that he would like to know how the county's money is spent or who benefits. He said the employees' benefit package includes coverage for mental health. He said this is excellent but that employees have to pay a copay to participate and other costs are determined by whether an in network or out of network doctor is chosen. He said he would like to move the \$2,000 from where it is budgeted to be used to help pay the copays for the Edgefield County employees.

Councilman Campbell made a motion to amend ordinance number 19-20-768 to move the \$2,000 allocated to the Burton Center to be moved and used for Copays of County Employees, seconded by Councilman Biggs. This entered Council into discussion.

Councilwoman Kennion said she believed Councilman Campbell read the same outline during the budget process last year. She inquired to the length of time Councilman Campbell served as Chairman, asking if it was six or seven years. Councilman Campbell confirmed seven years. Councilwoman Kennion then stated when Mrs. Butler Smith came from the Department of Mental Health Last year, she informed us Edgefield County used to fund Mental Health. We could ask them to return this year to explain where the money is going. Councilwoman Kennion then noted that she is not in favor of Councilman Campbell's motion to amend. Councilwoman said she believes the money will be utilized better because of the COVID-19 crisis. She said pandemic may cause people to have more mental health issues.

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Councilwoman Kennion said Councilman Campbell is saying the County Council should support their own. She asked him if he did that when he was the Chairman. Councilman Campbell said that he didn't fund mental health while he was the Chairman. Councilwoman Kennion asked him why he didn't. Councilman Campbell said the mental health agency was funded until 2010. He said when he became Chairman, Council decided not to fund any state agencies, since they are funded by the State and Federal Government. He said he doesn't like to play "winners and losers games" with state agencies or non-profit organizations. He said every agency that wasn't funding a need in Edgefield County, that wasn't a mandate, was removed from the budget. He said he is concerned with the Edgefield County Budget and the citizens that it affects. Councilwoman Kennion asked Councilman Campbell how many state agencies were funded while he was Chairman. Councilman Campbell said he just said all of them were removed from the budget. Councilwoman Kennion said she is against removing funding from the mental health agency. Councilman Talbert said is against removing the funding as well. Councilman Biggs said he believes the county gets stuck with too many unfunded mandates as it is and doesn't believe the county should fund those agencies above what is required. He said he agrees with Councilman Campbell's proposed amendment. He said county problems need to be county problems and state problems need to be state problems. Chairman Cooper said he has a report from the Department of Mental Health from the last 5 years that shows what counties contributed to their funding and he would be happy to share that with anyone that asks for a copy. He said he believes mental health is critically important. He said he does not believe it is being addressed properly at the federal or state levels and he believes the \$2,000 from Edgefield County provides a seat at the table, which like everything else in government, moves very slowly.

The vote on Councilman Campbell's motion to amend ordinance number 19-20-768 to move the \$2,000 allocated to the Burton Center to be moved and used for Copays of County Employees failed 2-3 with Chairman Cooper, Councilman Talbert and Councilwoman Kennon voting against.

Chairman Campbell said he had another item he'd like to discuss. Councilman Campbell said that with the theme of thinking locally, he'd like to point out that the county pays \$534 to the National Association of Counties in annual dues. He said this was started the previous year by Chairman Cooper without a vote from Council out of the County Administrator's budget. He said he believes that money could be spent locally so that the county knows where it is going. He said he doesn't know of one thing NACo does or has done for Edgefield County. Councilman Campbell said that he would like to see this money used to go towards the problems with the soccer fields. He said that will take thousands of dollars and this would be a start.

Councilman Campbell made a motion to amend ordinance number 19-20-768 to earmark the \$534 for soccer field repairs, rather than the NACo membership fees, seconded by Councilman Biggs. This entered Council into discussion.

Chairman Cooper said there are over 3,000 counties in the Country. He said NACo works for all of those counties and won't be working for one specifically. He said one of the things that NACo has been working on that would benefit Edgefield County is rural broadband. He urged everyone to go to naco.org/testing and test their broadband.

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The vote on Councilman Campbell's motion to amend ordinance number 19-20-768 to earmark the \$534 for soccer field repairs, rather than the NACo membership fees failed 2-3 with Chairman Cooper, Councilman Talbert and Councilwoman Kennon voting against.

Chairman Cooper asked if there were any other items that needed to be discussed. Councilman Biggs said that he would like to speak briefly on the decrease of the Sheriff's Office budget in the automotive operating expense.

Councilman Biggs said he would like to see County Council use this budget to really focus locally.

Chairman Cooper made a motion to amend ordinance number 19-20-768 to include the two adjustments proposed in the memorandum from the County Administrator, seconded by Councilman Talbert. This entered Council into discussion. Councilman Campbell asked if the new paperwork County Council received for their budget books included the two changes proposed in the memorandum. Mr. Paradise said it does include those changes since they were discussed at the budget work session. This motion passed unanimously.

Main motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration to Authorize the County Administrator to request assistance from the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office for the Redistricting of County Council Districts following the 2020 Census.

Mr. Paradise said following the 2020 census, County Council district lines will need to be redrawn to ensure that all state and federal laws are met for proper representation. He said the RFA Office will provide assistance to the county at no charge to develop the necessary changes. He noted the RFA Office states that Counties should begin the process about a year before and recommends that Counties start now if they would like to have their assistance. Census data will be released by April 1, 2021 and the County Council districts are required to be redrawn and approved by ordinance by April 2022. Motion to authorize the County Administrator to request assistance from the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office for the redistricting of County Council Districts following the 2020 Census was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennon. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Approval to provide the National Fire Safety Council \$750 for fire safety training materials.

Mr. Paradise reviewed his memorandum. It read:

In 2002, Edgefield County began contributing \$750 annually to the National Fire Safety Council to distribute fire safety materials to the area schools and daycares. Prior to authorizing disbursement this year, staff would like to make sure this is an expense that Council still supports funding.

The National Fire Safety Council has volunteers that are reimbursed for mileage and possibly meals. These volunteers are assigned different areas to gather donations. The representative for Edgefield County is Ralph Larsen. His wife Susan volunteers with him. They go to all of the counties in their area and collect donations from businesses and local government offices. They keep the money separated by county.

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Susan collects each county's data from the schools and daycares. She keeps up with how many students are enrolled and their ages. She then hand selects the materials (coloring books, pencils, book marks, etc.) each year for those age groups. Every single penny from the collections goes towards purchasing as many materials as possible.

They then sort the materials by age group, number of children per school/daycare, and fire department and packs them to ship to the Edgefield County Fire Association (ECFA). The ECFA then delivers them to each fire department in Edgefield County that has a school or daycare in that fire departments response area. Those fire departments go to the schools and daycares each year during fire safety week and hand out the materials.

Motion to approve to provide the National Fire Safety Council \$750 for fire safety training materials was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration to Authorize the County Administrator to Enter into a Contract with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

Mr. Paradise started by saying DHEC would like for each County to be responsible for people requiring isolation who live in a congregate setting, health care workers and first responders exposed that do not wish to expose their families, people requiring quarantine or isolation who reside with someone who is medically fragile and cannot return home, individuals visiting the state who need to be quarantined or isolated but their current lodging has evicted or rejected them, and the homeless. He said the contract is capped at \$13,597 and does not have a termination date or termination clause for the County. The actual cost to the County is potentially greater than what is proposed by DHEC.

Mr. Paradise went on to say the contract has been reviewed by the SC Association of Counties and the County Attorney. He said the SCAC recommends each county refer the contract to the county attorney and not sign absent significant revisions which meets each individual county's needs. SCAC also states there is no statutory or emergency authority that DHEC is citing when offering this agreement. Mr. Paradise said the County Attorney also has concerns with the contract as written and suggests Council provide the administrator the authority to negotiate with DHEC until an appropriate contract is proposed. Staff has also researched and has been unable to locate where this would be a County responsibility, but rather should be handled by DSS and DHEC. Staff is recommending Council not to authorize the contract at this time.

Suzy Spurgeon told Council that if the county were to house 5 citizens for 14 days each, that would cost approximately \$1,500 per person. She said if that number were to go to 10 citizens, the county would easily be looking at \$15,000.

Mr. Marine also spoke against this contract. He said the Governor declared a State of Emergency and that is in affect for the whole state. He went on to explain the County of Edgefield has not declared a State of Emergency. He said we don't have a plan in place when we have not declared a State of Emergency. He also said he has an issue with the contract's open ended date.

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Mr. Paradise said that if the contract were to be signed now, the county would be responsible for those citizens, no matter how many. He said if we wait, we can still have the discussion later, if needed, with DHEC to decide who is responsible.

Motion to table the authorization of the County Administrator to enter into a contract with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) until the language is prepared and the details are final was made by Chairman Cooper, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

None

Comments from the Public

1. Jane Jenkins Herlong - Our new normal....what will it be? But I am certain that our future depends on our present- how we respond in times of crises. The Bible tells us in I Samuel 16:7 *that God looks on the heart of man.* HE reveals the hearts of others but the most important heart is beating in your body. Matthew 12:34 reminds us that *out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.* Express words that will produce an abundant harvest. Positive actions lead to deeds that will bless our county, state and country. Words, actions and deeds--these three things will determine our new normal. Jane Jenkins Herlong, 65 Bouknight Rd, Johnston, SC 29832

County Administrator's Report

Mr. Paradise started his report by saying Raymond Batchelor has retired as our EMS Director and Garrett Lynn has been appointed as his replacement. Garrett has been with Edgefield County EMS for 11 years serving 8 years as a paramedic and 6 years as a shift supervisor. He is also a graduate from Limestone College with a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration.

Mr. Paradise then said staff met with the County Fire Chiefs to develop a fire safety plan for senior citizens. He said this plan will include working with the Senior Center, installation of smoke detectors, and looking at ways to help educate the senior community regarding fire safety issues.

Mr. Paradise said he attended the Upper Savannah COG meeting of area Administrators. The program was focused on the 2020 Census and COVID-19 precautions.

Mr. Paradise closed his comments by giving an update on the COVID-19 situation and what the county has done to take precautions. They are:

- 1) Suspending Spring sports and closing of Bettis Park, County Library, Sweetwater Community Center and County Archives
- 2) Offices are closed to public and communicate via phone, email, fax, or mail. Installed payment box in front of Kneece building
- 3) Daily conference call with situational update from state and local officials
- 4) First Responder meeting determining response protocol
- 5) Providing access to county internet to the school district for use by their students

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- 6) Implemented the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), this is federal legislation that provides additional paid leave to our employees affected by COVID-19 in addition to their regular sick and annual leave
- 7) Consultation with DHEC concerning county employees showing symptoms or close contact with those showing symptoms and appropriate testing if applicable
- 8) Staff working to assist local business with SBA economic loss recovery procedures
- 9) Maintained sufficient supply of PPE for first responders
- 10) Assisted private medical offices with the procurement of PPE
- 11) Received 3 shipments from the National Stockpile, EMA is point of contact for any medical facility in the county that may need PPE. The PPE from the National Stockpile is available to any medical facility, public or private
- 12) EMA has distributed 1154 various masks, 92 surgical gowns, 50 face shields, 36 canisters of wipes, and 1,800 examination gloves to various medical offices and public entities

Comments by County Council Chair

Chairman Cooper started his report by thanking staff for their hard work in these trying times. He said there is a lot going on with COVID-19 that is not in anyone's day to day activities and everyone is trying to make the best decisions. Chairman Cooper said he wanted everyone to be mindful of their nutrition, the things we are eating, and how much we are sleeping and what we are doing with our lives since all of those things effect our immune systems. He also spoke briefly about Oberammergau. He said this is a city in Germany. He said that in 1630 the bubonic plague was wreaking havoc in Europe and this town was spared due to their prayer and pledge to God.

Adjourn

Councilman Talbert made the motion to adjourn at 7:37PM, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

Edgefield County Council



H. Scott Cooper, Chair

ATTEST



Jennifer D. Gilley, Clerk to Council