

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

September 1, 2020

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument 202000003764 OR Book Page 1834 251

The Edgefield County Council held their regular meeting at 6:00 PM Tuesday, September 1, 2020. Notice of this meeting was provided to The Edgefield Advertiser and others as requested.

**Members present**

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

202000003764  
Filed for Record in  
EDGEFIELD COUNTY, SC  
CHARLES L. REEL, CLERK OF COURT  
10-15-2020 At 11:31 am.  
CTY MISCELL .00  
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**Others present**

Tommy Paradise, County Administrator  
Dana Waters, Finance Director  
Andrew Marine, County Attorney  
Taz Potts, AP /Payroll Clerk

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

**Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Cooper made a suggestion to amend the agenda to allow a presentation for the outgoing Clerk to Council Jennifer Gilley before approving the minutes. Motion to amend the agenda was made by Councilman Talbert seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.  
*Former Clerk to Council received a plaque from the County Council. Photos and comments from County Council were made during this time.*

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the August 5, 2020 County Council minutes (Regular Meeting of Council) was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

**Guest Speakers**

None

**Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

**Reports**

There was no discussion or questions 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 Campbell, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

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1. Consideration of Appointment to the Planning Commission.  
**Tracy Hamilton .....District 3**
2. Consideration of Appointment Zoning Board of Appeals  
**Reuben Carver .....At-Large**

**Consent Agenda Ends Here**

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**Public Hearing**

1. **Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 20-21-771, "An Ordinance to Approve the Policies for a Spay/Neuter Program for Edgefield County and Other Matters Relating Thereto."**  
The public hearing was held, and no one spoke during this time.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Consideration of Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-771, "An Ordinance to Approve the Policies for a Spay/Neuter Program for Edgefield County and Other Matters Relating Thereto."**  
Motion to approve second reading of ordinance number 20-20-771 was made by Councilman Talbert seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Consideration of Approval of the Tax Millage Rate for FY 2020-2021.**  
County Auditor Bill Gilchrist reports the new value of a mill for the tax year 2020 has increased from \$81,197 to \$83,600 since 2019, which would be about 3%. This total includes personal property. Mr. Gilchrist also stated that the real value has increased about 4% since the year 2006. He indicated with the construction addition at Milliken; there are a total of six (6) Fee in Lieu of agreements for Edgefield County equaling to a net amount of \$545,000. Mr. Gilchrist explained the tax bills will look a little different because of the hospital and recreational tax being combined into general operations resulting in a total millage rate of 82.9. In the past, it was broken down with county operations being 74.9 mils, hospital being 6.50 mils and Recreation being 1.50 mils. He explained there is no change in the millage rate and there is no tax increase. Mr. Gilchrist asked that all constituents please be patient, when paying their bills, and to be mindful of the safety measures that have been put in place and there are options to pay bills on line or in our drop box on the outside of the building.  
A motion to approve the Tax Millage Rate for FY 2020-2021 was made by Councilman Talbert and seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Consideration of approval of a franchise application for Regional Ambulance Service to operate a private ambulance service in Edgefield County to provide convalescent and/or nonemergency medical transportation.**  
Mr. Paradise said that this is a renewal of the existing franchise agreement. Regional Ambulance which provides non emergent and convalescent transports in the county is required to have a franchise agreement. The EMS director has reviewed all the data for the application, and recommends approval. Motion to approve a franchise application for Regional Ambulance Service

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and to operate a private ambulance service in Edgefield County to provide convalescent and/or nonemergency medical transportation Motion was made by Councilman Campbell and seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Consideration of approval a contract addendum with Robert And Company for the extension of services and additional work to be provided for the Land Management Ordinance in an amount not exceeding \$10,000.**

The recommendation is not to exceed the price of \$10,000. Discussion ensued as to Mr. Paradise explained council suspended further work on the Land Management Ordinance until January 2021 due to Covid-19 and the inability to have the public at the Public Hearings. He explained staff and the consultants would like to continue working on the project and explained some of the objection that is being received. Mr. Paradise said the consultants did not anticipate being delayed and did not include this additional time in their contract. He indicated the consultants included an exhibit with their recommendation that outlines their costs at an hourly rate based on the work performed not to exceed \$10,000. Chairman Cooper questioned when the goal was to have this project completed. Mr. Paradise explained prior to Covid-19; the timeframe was end of June; but because of Covid-19 it has been delayed. Chairman Cooper entertained a motion for consideration of approval for the contract addendum with Robert and Company for the extension of services and additional work to be provided not to exceed \$10,000. Councilwoman Kennion questioned the large amount of \$10,000 and wanted to know if could have been lowered to \$5,000. Mr. Paradise referred to the exhibit to provide an explanation of billable hours. Chairman Cooper stated the Council has the right to amend if necessary. Chairman Cooper entertained a motion for consideration of approval for the contract addendum with Robert and Company for the extension of services and additional work to be provided not to exceed \$10,000. Councilman Talbert made the motion. The motion was seconded by Chairman Cooper. The Council opened for discussion. Councilman Campbell explained why he disagreed with the extra money being requested and felt it wasn't necessary. He felt the taxpayer's money could be beneficial for something else as this would have been done anyway. Chairman Cooper and Mr. Paradise discussed the number of readings that would incur between January and March in order to implement the ordinance. Vice-Chairman Talbert said he spoke with the LMO Chairperson; Fab Burt which he stated it is very busy during this time. Mr. Talbert also stated that he doesn't like to spend taxpayer's money unnecessarily but felt this would give the constituents a chance to understand the process. Discussion ensued as to how long this process has taken to be completed. The majority of the work is done, and the consultations should be less frequent unless needed. Chairman Cooper recommendation would be to approve this dollar amount so that they would not have to return to Council unless necessary. Mr. Paradise stated that if any changes were to be modified, they would also have to be modified with Robert & Company. Councilman Campbell explained that majority of the work is completed; the committees understand it because it was developed by them, and the most important fact would be that our constituents understand. And therefore, extra funding should not be needed at this time. Chairman Cooper and Mr. Paradise discussed if there are any leftover funds from this project, the monies will be allocated for budget year ending June 30, 2021 year. Kevin Singletary spoke to Council from a staff perspective and stated that he thinks that is beneficial to speak to Robert & Company as they receive potential items that either needed to be edited, drafted, or text edits for the Planning Commission when

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Commission when they come back to ask for a recommendation. Chairman Cooper said all in favor of approving a contract addendum with Robert and Company for the extension of services and additional work to be provided for the Land Management Ordinance in an amount not exceeding \$10,000. Motioned by Chairman Cooper seconded by Councilman Talbert, Opposed by Councilman Dean Campbell.

Motion passed (3-1)

4. **Consideration of approval to move \$10,000 from County contingency account, # 001-005-05100-55279 to the Building and Planning professional services account, # 001-005-05150-05265 to fund the contract addendum for Robert and Company for additional work on the Land Management Ordinance.**

Mr. Paradise said this is a follow up from the previous item. Mr. Paradise indicated that the Building and Planning Department does not have sufficient funds in their budget to cover the cost. Discussed with County Council about Contingency funds to help fund the project. This entered Council into discussion. Councilman Campbell asks what would be the remaining balance in our contingency account. Mr. Paradise stated that the remaining balance would be \$29,000. Mr. Campbell also requests that each Council member receive an expenditure report monthly from Ford & Company for our records. Motioned by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Chairman Cooper, Opposed by Councilman Dean Campbell. Motion passed (3-1)

5. **An Ordinance Authorizing and Approving (1) Development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park Pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, in Conjunction with Aiken County (the "Park"), Such Park at the Time of Its Initial Development to be Located in Aiken County and to Include Certain Property Now or Later to be Owned, Leased and/or Operated by the Company or Companies Comprising Project Clay Solar; (2) the Execution and Delivery of a Written Park Agreement with Aiken County as to the Requirement of Payments of Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes with Respect to Park Property and the Sharing of the Revenues and Expenses of the Park; (3) the Distribution of Revenues from the Park Within Edgefield County; and (4) Other Matters Related Thereto. (Project Clay Solar)**

Mr. Paradise addressed the (4) ordinances, he explained that Santee Cooper, a state-owned power generation department will be adding 1500 megawatts of solar power to the generation by 2024. Mr. Paradise further explained that Santee Cooper went out and selected Solar Developers to make proposals to Santee Cooper, which in turn will decide which location and project will be developed. Motioned by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. **An Ordinance Authorizing and Approving (1) Development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park Pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, in Conjunction with Aiken County (the "Park"), Such Park at the Time of Its Initial Development to be Located in Aiken County and to Include Certain Property Now or Later to be Owned, Leased and/or Operated by the Company or Companies Comprising Project Clearwater Solar; (2) the Execution and Delivery of a Written Park Agreement with Aiken County as to the Requirement of Payments of Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes with**

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**Respect to Park Property and the Sharing of the Revenues and Expenses of the Park; (3) the Distribution of Revenues from the Park Within Edgefield County; and (4) Other Matters Related Thereto. (Project Clearwater Solar)**

Motion was made by Councilman Talbert and second by Chairman Cooper. Motion passed unanimously.

7. **An Ordinance Authorizing and Approving (1) Development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park Pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, in Conjunction with Aiken County (the "Park"), Such Park at the Time of Its Initial Development to be Located in Aiken County and to Include Certain Property Now or Later to be Owned, Leased and/or Operated by the Company or Companies Comprising Project Lake Amelia Solar; (2) the Execution and Delivery of a Written Park Agreement with Aiken County as to the Requirement of Payments of Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes with Respect to Park Property and the Sharing of the Revenues and Expenses of the Park; (3) the Distribution of Revenues from the Park Within Edgefield County; and (4) Other Matters Related Thereto. (Project Lake Amelia Solar)**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Kennion and second by Councilman Campbell.  
Motion passed unanimously.

8. **An Ordinance Authorizing and Approving (1) Development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park Pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, in Conjunction with Aiken County (the "Park"), Such Park at the Time of Its Initial Development to be Located in Aiken County and to Include Certain Property Now or Later to be Owned, Leased and/or Operated by the Company or Companies Comprising Project Wallace I Solar; (2) the Execution and Delivery of a Written Park Agreement with Aiken County as to the Requirement of Payments of Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes with Respect to Park Property and the Sharing of the Revenues and Expenses of the Park; (3) the Distribution of Revenues from the Park Within Edgefield County; and (4) Other Matters Related Thereto. (Project Wallace I Solar)**

Motion was made by Councilman Talbert and second by Councilwoman Kennion  
Motion passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC**

None

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO REPORT BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Paradise said that Mr. Alex Lee of Hickory, NC will be purchasing the Bilo in Edgefield. It will operate under the KJ and IGA Brand. Mr. Paradise reports that Jennifer Gilley position has been advertised. The office staff are handling duties until the position is filled. The contract and the notice to proceed with the Millcreek convert project have been issued. The work is planned

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to be complete within 60 days. Mr. Paradise stated that Covid numbers are decreasing. Mr. Paradise provided dates, locations and times for Free COVID Testing Sites. Mr. Paradise reports that the Vehicle Bond is now closed, and the finance rate remained the same. Mr. Paradise reported that 3 of the 4 welcome signs have been installed since the last meeting. Mr. Paradise reports that the County has received an Aero Disinfectant Machine through a grant which is being used to disinfect the County Buildings.

**COMMENTS BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIR**

Chairman Cooper yielded the floor to Councilwoman Kennion. Councilwoman Kennion thanked everyone for coming out to the traffic light dedication on last week. Special Thanks to Mr. Paradise and Nick Wates for making sure that the dedication was a success. Chairman Cooper thanked Jennifer Gilley for her role and service to Edgefield County.

Chairman Cooper thanked Taz, Dana, and Lee Ann for their help with additional duties. Chairman Cooper reported that there are several applications and resumes and the County Council plans to meet on September 17, 2020 to discuss candidates and Interviews. Special Thanks to Councilwoman Dr, Kennion and her efforts with the traffic light, along with the ceremony. He stated it was a team effort and was grateful for everyone who helped and those who came out to support this great cause.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by Councilman Talbert and second by Councilwoman Kennion the meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm

**To watch the County Council Meeting live via YouTube: Subscribe to our YouTube Page – Edgefield County Government. You'll be able to see upcoming meetings and can be notified when we go live.**

Edgefield County Council



H. Scott Cooper, Chair

ATTEST



Thomas L. Paradise, County Administrator