

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

November 2, 2020

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

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202000004526 OR 1845 344

The Edgefield County Council held their regular called meeting at 6:00 PM Monday, November 2, 2020. Notice of this meeting was provided to others as requested.

Members present

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

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EDGEFIELD COUNTY, SC
CHARLES L. REEL, CLERK OF COURT
12-08-2020 At 08:43 am.
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OR Book 1845 Page 344 - 349

Others present

Tommy Paradise, County Administrator
Dana Waters, Finance Director
Andrew Marine, County Attorney
Taz Potts, Clerk to Council
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 agenda was made by Councilman Dean Campbell seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the October 6, 2020 County Council minutes (Regular Meeting of Council)
Motedioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.
Motion to approve the October 14, 2020 County Council minutes (Special Called Meeting of Council)
Motedioned by Councilwoman Kennion seconded by Vice-Chairman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Guest Speaker

NONE

Comments from the Public

No comments from the public

Reports

There was no discussion or questions on the reports.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consideration of Approval of Third Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-771, "An Ordinance to Relating Thereto."

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In 2014, Edgefield County began a Spay and Neuter Program for animals of low income families with the service provided by the SPCA Albrecht Center. Staff has recently been notified by SPCA Albrecht Center that the cost for these procedures will increase from \$55 per animal and \$25 transport fee to \$55 for cat spay, \$40 for cat neuter, \$80 for dog spay, and \$55 for dog neuter. This proposed revisions allow for these increases. The revisions also allows the opportunity for veterinarians in private practice the opportunity to participate in the program. Included is an Option 2 Ordinance with recommended changes from the County Attorney from the First Reading of this Ordinance.

(Exhibit I)

Mr. Paradise stated that the ordinance was modified to specify the income eligibility criteria for the Spay/Neuter program and put into a resolution. Chairman Campbell commented that this modification answers his question from our last meeting and for reasons if any federal or state government changes in regards to income criteria, it will be easier to change than to go through three readings.

Motioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert and second by Councilman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration to Approve a Resolution Approving Income Criterial for a Spay/Neuter Program for Edgefield County.

This resolution will provide the income criteria for utilizing the Spay/Neuter Program. The income criteria being established is the same that is currently in place. The income criteria can be modified by a resolution by Council in the future.

(Exhibit II)

Mr. Paradise stated with this resolution in place, any income criteria can be modified in the future if necessary.

Motioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert, second by Councilman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration to Approve Authorization for the County Administrator to write a letter of support for an H-1B One Workforce Grant.

This grant proposal would be a collaborative effort of Aiken Technical College, Piedmont Technical College, Upper Savannah COG, Lower Savannah COG, and others to provide workforce training for Edgefield and Aiken County residents to position them for employment in the cyber industry.

The H-1B One Workforce Grant Program offered by the U.S. Department of Labor is designed to develop replicable, comprehensive workforce strategies for preparing the workforce for middle-to high-skilled H-1B occupations within the information technology, advanced manufacturing, and transportation sectors

Mr. Paradise stated that this grant is in collaboration with Aiken Technical College, Piedmont Technical College, the Upper and Lower Savannah Councils of Government along with others to train Edgefield and Aiken County residents to work within the cyber

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industry. Mr. Paradise states that this grant has a "short window" of time meaning that if the grant moves forward, Aiken Technical College would be the leader of this project. Mr. Paradise asks for a recommendation to provide a letter of support to be written for the H-1B One Workforce grant Program. This will ensure that all residents entering employment within the cyber industry can be trained at no cost to the county.

Motioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert, second by Councilman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Discussion of proposed sale or purchase of property. Actions may be taken in public session on matters discussed in Executive Session including contractual matters.

Motioned by Vice Chairman Talbert, second by Councilwoman Kennion to go into executive session. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Vice Chairman Talbert and Second by Councilman Campbell to return from Executive Session. No actions taken at this time.

IV. ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO REPORT BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

- Mr. Paradise stated that the work on the Mill Creek culvert project is complete. It took about 3 1/2 months from the time of incident to the road being reopened. Yesterday the neighborhood held a celebration and invited staff to attend. Mr. Paradise stated he did attend that celebration.
- Mr. Paradise stated that County COVID numbers are at a slow steady rise at this time. We are averaging 5 new cases a day. We are at the lower end of the higher incident scale.
- The Legislative Delegation will meet here on Thursday at 6 PM.
- Mr. Paradise shared that North Augusta City Administrator Jim Clifford set up a meeting with Colonel Shaw Pick, Garrison Commander of Ft. Gordon for the "South Carolina Delegation." Those in attendance with Mr. Paradise and Mr. Clifford, were North Augusta Assistant City Administrator Rachel Moody and Aiken County Administrator Klay Killian. This meeting created an opportunity for future partnerships with the Fort. One of the items discussed which was relevant to Edgefield County was the I-20 connector to Columbia County for the future.
- Mr. Paradise shared that on October 13 he and Chairman Cooper attended a meeting with Saluda County officials to discuss a possible Regional Detention center. This has many hurdles. We are waiting on the outcome of the Capital Project Sales Tax tomorrow to discuss this further.
- Mr. Paradise shared that on October 27 he attended a meeting with Chairman Cooper, Vice Chairman Talbert, Economic Development Partnership CEO Will Williams, the SC Department of Commerce and the Palmetto Sites Program. This group is reviewing our industrial park and will identify types of activities that would be attract the park, as well strengths and weaknesses to the park.
- Mr. Paradise addressed a factually incorrect advertisement that was in the Edgefield Advertiser on October 28th, listed by "The Concerned Edgefield County Land Owners."

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- The Planning Commission did not take any action on this matter. On June 11th, the developer, JSMG Development, came to a Planning Commission work session to discuss the possibility of developing tax parcel number 174-00-00-068 as a single-family residential subdivision consisting of 30 homes. The developer heard the concerns regarding the non-compliance with the Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan as well as the letter from Will Williams, President and CEO of the Economic Development Partnership. The developer understood the concerns, decided not to develop this parcel, and continues to develop in the county.
- This development would not only been contrary to the County Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan, but also the Strategic Plan, which has been adopted by Council.
- Mr. Williams comments about the incompatibility of residential property in close proximity to industrial uses is consistent with what he has learned at the Economic Development Institute put on by the SC Department of Commerce.
- The advertisement also referenced this was a \$5 million investment which was lost. All \$5 million investments are not equal. A \$5 million investment for owner-occupied residential would generate about \$33,000 annually in county taxes. The same investment for an industrial property would generate about \$198,000 annually for county and school operations.
- The Economic Development Partnership is a non-profit organization created in 1988 to allow member counties to partner resources for the industrial development and expansion. The Economic Development Partnership is governed by a 21-member Board of Directors, some of which are appointed by county council, including this council. The Economic Development Partnership has a staff of 4 people and is not a company owned by Will Williams.
- In the past 4 years, Edgefield County has seen industrial expansion at Bondex, U.S. Fiber, Milliken, and A to B Fulfillment Center. The Parkdale building has recently been reopened to serve as a distribution facility. This is in addition to several solar farms and multi-county industrial park agreements. The multi-county industrial park agreements brought revenue of \$64,811 to Edgefield County in 2020. In other words, Edgefield Counties participation with the Economic Development Partnership resulted in a net cost of \$189 for FY 2019-20 without including the additional revenue for the expansion of existing facilities.
- He also added that if Project Caddis moves forward, Edgefield County and Schools would receive an additional \$112,455 annually in taxes. Edgefield County certainly receives a return on its investment with the Economic Development Partnership.

Following Mr. Paradise's Report, Chairman Cooper asked Council if they had any questions or comments for our Administrator.

- Councilwoman Kennion stated that she wants to discuss the advertisement a little more but will wait until next month. Clearly there is a misunderstanding between the individual placing the

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advertisement and what is being said tonight, and Dr. Kennion would like to understand it more fully, and bring it back to County Council.

V. COMMENTS BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIR

Chairman Cooper stated that before he made his brief comments, he wanted to give the floor to Councilwoman Kennion to make a comment about an issue:

- Councilwoman Kennion stated her concerns of the trash issue within the Trenton and the Johnston area. She asks what could be done to help with the litter pickup? She discussed the possibility of utilizing federal prison inmates to help us with this issue.
- Mr. Paradise stated that Probation, Pardon and Parole might be able to assist in this matter. Doc Hart, our building and planning director has reached out to Aiken Counties Code Enforcement Department, because they are already doing this, so seeking their input. Furthermore He the position for litter control officer has not be filled at this time, but he is investigating other venues for litter pickup and is a project we are working on.

Chairman Cooper asked if any other members of Council had any comments. There were none.

Chairman Cooper than made his brief comments:

- Chairman Cooper agreed with Councilwoman Kennion regarding litter and thanked her for raising this issue and is glad it is being researched.
- Chairman Cooper recognized and welcomed our new Clerk to Council Taz Potts. County Council is very thankful she came on board and grateful for what she does.
- Chairman Cooper reminded everyone that tomorrow is election day and there are important items on the ballot, so please go vote if you haven't already done so. Our Capital Project Sales Tax Initiative is the way we hope to fund our new Law Enforcement Center, which will include a new jail, so please go out and vote!

IV. ADJOURN

Motioned by Vice-Vice-Chairman Talbert. Second by Councilwoman Kennion.
Meeting adjourned at 6:51 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.

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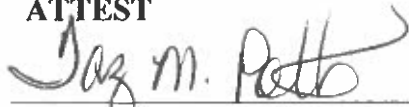
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Edgefield County Council



H. Scott Cooper, Chair

ATTEST



Taz M. Potts, Clerk to Council