

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
October 6, 2020
6:00 PM
County Council Chambers

The Edgefield County Council held their regular meeting at 6:00 PM Tuesday, October 6, 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

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CHARLES L. REEL, CLERK OF COURT
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Others present

- Tommy Paradise, County Administrator
- Dana Waters, Finance Director
- Andrew Marine, County Attorney
- Taz Potts, AP /Payroll Clerk, and others as per list attached

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order and Reverend Keith Gordon of Bethany Baptist Church McCormick, SC 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 Vice-Chairman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the September 1, 2020 County Council minutes (Regular Meeting of Council) Motioned by Chairman Cooper, seconded by Chairwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously. Councilman Campbell handed out a suggested revision to Council and Clerk of September 1st minutes requesting to amend page three with (2) small items of what he discussed, changing the words (time) to money, and discarding the words (time and) from the minutes. Motion to amend September 1st minutes by Councilman Campbell and seconded by Chairman Cooper. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to approve the September 17, 2020 County Council minutes (Called Meeting of Council) was made by Vice Chairman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

Guest Speaker

Will Williams, President and CEO
Economic Development Partnership

Mr. Williams discussed Broadband updates within Edgefield County. Mr. Williams provided a PowerPoint Presentation which included several maps detailing the "broadband deserts" within Edgefield County. He stated that most of the county was within those "desert" areas, but the best broadband coverage would be on the East side of Edgefield County. Mr. Williams also spoke about the Broadband Bill which was passed through the legislature. He stated that the key take away of that bill would allow our utility companies such as Aiken Electric Cooperative to use the right of way to run broadband. He also stated that there are other providers that are working on plans for broadband in Edgefield County but due to non-disclosure agreements it can't be discussed. He stated that Western

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Carolina who services McCormick County, would like to help in servicing our county, but they were looking for partnerships possibly in money or labor. Williams continues to explain the areas of need with broadband and the areas that are not available for broadband. Once presentation was complete, it was open for questions by Council. Chairman Cooper stated that he was grateful that Mr. Williams was able to come and speak to us concerning broadband. Chairman Cooper asked if council member had any questions for Mr. Williams. Councilwoman Kennion expressed her concerns that broadband is a necessity and that our neighboring McCormick County has this service, but asked what can we do or what do you suggest for Edgefield County to receive Broadband service? Williams stated the reason Western Carolina was able to have broadband in McCormick County was due to the county having a telephone cooperative who had that service in place. Williams stated that he has met with AT&T and they are not interested, because they are looking at it as a business transaction instead of a need for Edgefield County. Williams stated that broadband is a pure quality of life issue. Vice Chairman Talbert stated that bringing internet Edgefield County is going to be our priority and a necessity for the constituents of Edgefield County and he hopes that Williams is doing his best to pursue broadband for Edgefield County. Administrator Tommy Paradise spoke in reference to the partnering with Western Carolina. He states that Columbia County invested \$30 million dollars and Western Carolina wanted us to duplicate the same procedures, and even with a grant, there is a 20 percent match that we do not have. He stated that we have our wants as well as our needs. But with our needs, there will be a cost also.

Comments from the Public

Mrs. Acqueshia Williams of 27 Winding Rd. Trenton, SC was wanting to discuss her concerns about broadband. She states that being a parent trying to work in the County with limited access to broadband. It does affect you as a parent and as a student and it also effects job employment opportunities as well. People aren't able to have take home jobs, because there is no broadband available. She also states that she have employees that are being shifted to work from home but has lost job opportunities due to broadband not being available. She states that it does affect the aspects of life, but what is it going to take to get broadband in Edgefield County?

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."

In 2014, Edgefield County began a Spay a 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)

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Mr. Paradise provided Council with an option 2, which was the strikethrough and underlying changes that County Attorney Marine recommended to be made. Mr. Marine was asked to speak on the recommended changes needed. Mr. Marine stated the changes to be made are procedural changes not substantial changes. The only changes recommended would be the income criteria of eligibility for the spay/neuter program. He recommends the income criteria be removed from the ordinance and remain with the County Administrator, so in the future if the income criteria changes, the ordinance would not require any actions to be taken. Councilman Campbell states for clarification that the attachment will be kept with the administrator and not be applied as part of that ordinance? Mr. Marine stated there would not be an attachment, but criteria eligibility would be kept by the administrator. Councilman Campbell asked that we table this discussion for next meeting, since everyone has just received this information at this meeting. It would give everyone a chance to read all the information before approving the ordinance. Vice Chairman Talbert agreed with Councilman Campbell postponing the 3rd reading until the November meeting.

Motioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert and second by Councilwoman Kennion to postpone the 3rd reading to the November Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Consideration of Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-772, "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 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)"

This ordinance is to establish a multi-county industrial park (MCIP) with Aiken County. The park will be located in Aiken County. The agreement to create a multi-county park will allow for the industry in the park to receive certain incentives from the state and county. Edgefield County will receive 1% of the Fee in Lieu of Taxes This is a just a procedural function; it will not involve Edgefield County creating a new industrial park requiring investment on the part of Edgefield County.

(Exhibit II)

Mr. Paradise stated that these four parks are located within Aiken County where Edgefield County would receive the 1% of the Fee in Lieu if parks are chosen and a contract provided Motioned by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Vice-Chairman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

- 3. Consideration of Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-773, "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

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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 Clearwater Solar)”

This ordinance is to establish a multi-county industrial park (MCIP) with Aiken County. The park will be located in Aiken County. The agreement to create a multi-county park will allow for the industry in the park to receive certain incentives from the state and county. Edgefield County will receive 1% of the Fee in Lieu of Taxes This is a just a procedural function; it will not involve Edgefield County creating a new industrial park requiring investment on the part of Edgefield County.

(Exhibit III)

Motioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert, seconded by Chairman Cooper. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-774, “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)”

This ordinance is to establish a multi-county industrial park (MCIP) with Aiken County. The park will be located in Aiken County. The agreement to create a multi-county park will allow for the industry in the park to receive certain incentives from the state and county. Edgefield County will receive 1% of the Fee in Lieu of Taxes This is a just a procedural function; it will not involve Edgefield County creating a new industrial park requiring investment on the part of Edgefield County.

(Exhibit IV) Motioned by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Vice-Chairman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-775, “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)”

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This ordinance is to establish a multi-county industrial park (MCIP) with Aiken County. The park will be located in Aiken County. The agreement to create a multi-county park will allow for the industry in the park to receive certain incentives from the state and county. Edgefield County will receive 1% of the Fee in Lieu of Taxes This is a just a procedural function; it will not involve Edgefield County creating a new industrial park requiring investment on the part of Edgefield County.

(Exhibit V)

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

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of Appointment of Candi Lalonde to the Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board.

The Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board has a vacancy from Edgefield County for a person engaged in a community based organization. Mrs. Lalonde is Director of EC First Steps and is familiar with challenges facing working families. First Steps also has child care scholarships available for those who are participating in job training. Mrs. Lalonde has worked for DSS, GLEAMNS, and USCOG. USCOG has recommended her to fill this vacancy.

Mr. Billy Morgan, Deputy Workforce Development Director of Upper Savannah Council of Government stated that they wanted someone from the community. Mr. Morgan stated Mrs. Lalonde works with First Steps and she is on the executive board committee for Edgefield County Hospital. Mrs. Lalonde also works with some of the same clients with Upper Savannah. Motioned by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Vice-Chairman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of Resolution Number 20-21-1129, "Identifying a Project to Satisfy the Requirement of Title 12, Chapter 44 of the South Carolina Code, so as to Allow Investment Expenditures Incurred by a Company known to the County as Project Caddis, its Affiliates and Related Entities and Certain Sponsor Affiliates to Qualify as Expenditures Eligible for a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Arrangement with Edgefield County, South Carolina's; Committing to Negotiate a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement Between Edgefield County and Project Caddis including the Provision of Special Source Revenue Credits; and other matters related thereto."

This resolution is an agreement between Edgefield County and Project Caddis to in good faith negotiate a FILOT. Project Caddis FILOT is estimated at \$112,455 annually.

(Exhibit VI)

Mr. Paradise states this is the first step of this project, and that Edgefield County and Project Caddis will work in good faith to negotiate a FILOT. Mr. Paradise states that money is being spent at this time toward the development of this project. Investments are being used towards their credit. An incentive resolution has to be in place in order to continue with project.

Motioned by Councilman Campbell. Second by Chairman Cooper. Motion passed unanimously.

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3. Consideration of Approval of a 2-year Preventative Maintenance and Repair Contract with Stryker for EMS power cots and power loads in the amount of \$13,514 annually.

This contract will provide for preventative maintenance for 5 power cots and 4 power loads on our ambulances. The contract will include parts, labor, and travel; 1 annual preventative maintenance service, battery replacements and any unscheduled service/repairs. This would be paid from the EMS Special Contracts account which has a balance of \$32,134.87.

(Exhibit VII)

Mr. Paradise states that EMS utilizes power cots and power loads on daily basis, which keeps our EMS personnel safe from injuries, while preparing for transport. The maintenance and service contract would ensure that the power cots and power loads would be serviced and inspected every year, and if there is need for repair, it would also be covered under the contract. Councilman Campbell states that we already have a preventative maintenance and repair contract with the company, would having this one put us on a special list? Mr. Paradise stated that we do not have a contract with this company for our power loads systems, but we have a contract for this company for our CPR equipment. Councilman Campbell asked, when CPR equipment was purchased, didn't it come with a preventative maintenance and repair agreement? Mr. Paradise stated we no longer have coverage. Councilman Campbell asked if we do consider this contract, would it cover all the equipment. Mr. Paradise state that all equipment would be covered under this contract. Motioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert, second by Chairman Cooper. Opposed by Councilwoman Kennion Motion passed (3-1)

4. Consideration of Approval of a 2-year Preventative Maintenance and Repair Contract with Zoll Medical Corporation in the amount of \$4,864.50 annually.

In FY 2019-20 Edgefield County purchased new Zoll monitors for EMS. These monitors one year warranty expired in August. This contract will provide for travel, parts and labor for annual field preventative maintenance and calibration. It also includes battery replacement and repairs for accidental damage. A loaner monitor will be provided if damaged monitor needs to be sent in for repairs. On-site response within 48 to 72 hours. This would be paid from the EMS Special Contracts account which has a balance of \$32,134.87.

(Exhibit VIII)

Mr. Paradise states that Preventative Maintenance and Repair contract has expired, but renewing the contract will ensure that all medical equipment will be calibrated and serviced. If there is any malfunction or maintenance issue, we will have the records to reference to if necessary. Motioned by Councilman Campbell. Second by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Approval for Preliminary Certification for Special Tax Assessment for Rehabilitated Historic Properties.

Los Primos Investments, LLC has purchased the old Wells Fargo Bank building located at 111 Courthouse Square and are preparing to renovate the building. The owners have applied for the special tax assessment for historic buildings. Preliminary certification for

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the special tax assessment is required. This will allow the owners to proceed with renovations while preserving the historic significance of the building. The special tax assessment is for a period of up to ten years equal to the assessed value of the property at the time of preliminary certification. The application has been reviewed by Preservation South Carolina and they have recommended approval of the application.

(Exhibit IX)

Mr. Paradise stated this assessment is known as the Bailey Bill in which council amended the bill to be used for commercial properties. The owners of Wells Fargo Bank Building located at 111 Courthouse Square are planning to renovate the building, and have applied for the special tax assessment. If assessment is considered, any improvements made to the building will not appear on the property tax roll for 10 years. Preservation of South Carolina Representative Summer Pendarvis stated that the owners have filled out the application and are wanting to restore the building and making it a contributing part of the square. Councilman Campbell commented that it was a very good use for this ordinance, rehabilitating historic properties is important to our county. It is nice that someone has taking the initiative to do this, and the tax break is a nice way to give others incentives to do the same. Motioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert. Second by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of Approval for Bid Award for Public Safety Software System
Edgefield County Sheriff Office has received a grant for a Records Management Systems that includes records and the jail for \$140,957.

The purpose of the grant is to provide the Sheriff's Office with an adequate software program that will enhance the department record, jail management, and streamline the daily operations. The grant has a 10% match which will be paid by the Sheriff's grant participation line item. There will be an additional "interface" expenses will be between \$10,000 and \$15,000, which will be partially funded with the remainder of the grant, \$4,547. The Sheriff's Office recommends awarding the bid to Blue/Horse/Agisent because they are low bid and the Sheriff's Office is familiar with the software because of other applications in the office.

(Exhibit X)

Company Name	Bid Amount
Blue Horse/Agisent	\$136,410 Plus interface cost for 5 years
Global Public Safety	\$240,974 Plus interface cost
ATT/Calibur	\$154,377 No interface cost \$45,288 annual maintenance fee
Central Square	\$66,000 yearly plus interface cost. 5 years equals \$330,000

Mr. Paradise stated the Sheriff's Department received a grant for a Records Management System which will include records and the jail for \$140,957. The purpose of the grant is to provide the Sheriff's Office with an adequate software program that will enhance the department records, jail management, and streamline the daily operations. The grant has a 10% match which will be paid

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by the Sheriff's grant participation line item. There will be interface expenses which will be between \$10,000 and \$15,000, which will be partially funded by the remainder of the grant, and the sheriff's budget will pay the remainder. The Sheriff's Office recommends awarding the bid to Blue/Horse/Agisent because they are low bid and the Sheriff's Office is familiar with the software because of other applications in the office. Mr. Paradise further stated, that an extension has already been extended for this grant. The grant will expire by January 1, 2021 if not used. Motioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert. Second by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

2. **COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC**

Linda Anderson expressed her concerns about the capital property sales tax that will be on the ballot for this upcoming election. She asks if any of the excess revenue which will be generated from this tax, be used solely for the jail. Chairman Cooper explained that the Capital Project Sales Tax commission met and voted to put all revenue towards the jail. Chairman Cooper also noted that if any additional revenue was raised, he felt that the Council would have the final decision of where that revenue would be placed. County Attorney Marine noted that Council could not bind a future Council on regards to expenditures. Chairman Cooper stated that this Capital Project Sales Tax is an 8 year projection, and that if the current council members were still here in that time, they would vote for the excess funds be allocated towards the jail. Ms. Anderson, continued to ask questions concerning this Capital Project Sales Tax and how it actually will work. Mr. Paradise explained that that the County would enter into a lease/purchase agreement with a 20-25 year note in which the Capital Project Sales Tax would cover 8 years. After 8 years, the Capital Project Sales Tax would have to be voted on to continue. Paradise also stated that Edgefield County has the highest mileage rate of any surrounding county, and the County would not want to impact property owners with the funding of a new jail. Mr. Paradise also stated that with the Capital Project Sales Tax tourists, seasonal persons, public housing residents etc. that purchases anything in Edgefield County, would be paying toward the penny sales tax. Councilman Campbell stated the Council has not raised taxes in over 10 years. Ms. Anderson then asked if the idea for a multi-law enforcement center still being considered. Mr. Paradise state that legal verbiage was worded that way legally to keep options open.

Mr. Melvin Springs acknowledged (2) former Council Members the late Mrs. Betty Butler and Mr. Willie Bright who were deeply involved with establishing the playing fields at Bettis Academy Park. He also stated that Bettis Academy is the hub for Edgefield County recreation. Mr. Springs is asking Council to consider naming the football field after Mr. Willie Bright and the baseball fields after Mrs. Betty Butler.

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

Mr. Paradise noted that Edgefield County was awarded the certificate of Achievement for excellence in financial reporting for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. The EMS was awarded the Mission Lifeline Gold Plus Award. The Capital Project Sales Tax questions and answers have been added to the county's website. The Millcreek culvert project is proceeding and should be completed within the next few weeks. Mr. Paradise also noted that W.C. Wall has been appointed to the Recreation Committee. Lisa Izlar has been hired for Purchasing Agent/Finance Clerk position.

4. **COMMENTS BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIR**

Chairman Cooper thanked Mr. Paradise for all his hard work and noted that the Legislative Delegation will have their Annual Meeting on November 5th at 6pm.

5. **ADJOURN**

Motioned by Vice-Vice-Chairman Talbert. Second by Councilwoman Kennion.
Meeting adjourned at 7:12 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