

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

February 2, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

The Edgefield County Council held their special called meeting at 6:00 PM Tuesday, February 2, 2021. 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
- Tiffani Ireland, Councilwoman

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CHARLES L. REEL, CLERK OF COURT  
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**Others present**

- Tommy Paradise, County Administrator
- Andrew Marine, County Attorney
- Dana Waters, Finance Director
- Kevin Singletary, Planning Director
- Taz Potts, Council Clerk and others as per list attached

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order and Rev. Eldwin Griffin; Pastor of Mt. Alpha Baptist Church of Ward, 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 Vice-Chairman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Motion to continue January 12, 2021 (Regular Meeting of Council) minutes was made by Chairman Scott Cooper and seconded by Councilwoman Ireland. Motion passed unanimously.

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

None

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**REPORTS**

Monthly reports for December 2020  
(SEE DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS)  
Agenda/Minutes of the following meetings:  
None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

It was motioned by Dean Campbell and seconded by Councilwoman Kennion to approve our consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

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**PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 20-21-776, "An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee Agreement by and between Edgefield County, South Carolina and Generac Power Systems, Inc., Providing for a Payment of a Fee in Lieu of Taxes. Special Source Revenue Credits and Other Matters Related Thereto."

**This ordinance allows Edgefield County to enter into a Fee in Lieu of Tax agreement for General Power Systems, Inc. The Project agrees to invest \$57,000,000 and create 450 new jobs in Edgefield County. In return the County will enter into an agreement providing the lowest possible millage rate and a 6% assessment ration for the project for a term of 30 years.**

None

2. Public Hearing of Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-777, "An Ordinance Authorizing the Development of a Jointly Owned and Operated Industrial and Business Park in Conjunction with Aiken County, Such Industrial Business Park to be Geographically located in Edgefield County and Established Pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, To Provide for the Expenses of the Park, the Percentage of Revenue Applications and the Distribution of Fees in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxation, and Other Matters Related Thereto".

**This ordinance is to establish a multi-county industrial park (MCIP) with Aiken County. The park will be located in Edgefield 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. Aiken County will be the non-host county and receive 1% of the Fee In Lieu of taxes with the remainder going to Edgefield County. This is a procedural function and does not involved Edgefield County creating a new industrial park.**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

Consideration of Approval of the Third Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-776, "An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee Agreement by and between Edgefield County, South Carolina and A Company Currently Identified as Project Bugle, Providing for a Payment of a Fee in Lieu of Taxes. Special Source Revenue Credits and Other Matters Related Thereto."

**This ordinance allows Edgefield County to enter into a Fee in Lieu of Tax agreement for Generac Power Systems, Inc. The Project agrees to invest \$57,000,000 and create 450 new jobs in Edgefield County. In return the County will enter into an agreement providing the lowest possible millage rate and a 6% assessment ration for the project for a term of 30 years.**

**(Exhibit I)**

Mr. Paradise stated that there are no changes since the second readng. Motioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert, seconded by Chairwoman Ireland. Motion passes unanimously.

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Consideration of Approval of the Third Reading Ordinance Number 20-21-777, "An Ordinance Authorizing the Development of a Jointly Owned and Operated Industrial and Business Park in Conjunction with Aiken County, Such Industrial Business Park to be Geographically located in Edgefield County and Established Pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, To Provide for the Expenses of the Park, the Percentage of Revenue Applications and the Distribution of Fees in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxation, and Other Matters Related Thereto".

**This ordinance is to establish a multi-county industrial park (MCIP) with Aiken County. The park will be located in Edgefield 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. Aiken County will be the non-host county and receive 1% of the Fee In Lieu of taxes with the remainder going to Edgefield County. This is a procedural function and does not involved Edgefield County creating a new industrial park.**

**(Exhibit II)**

Mr. Paradise stated that there are no changes since the second reading. Motioned by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passes unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-778, "An Ordinance to Stay a Contingent Deed Reversion to the County For Twenty-Four Months"  
**On October 2, 2018, Council passed on third reading to sell the Old Manor House property on Hwy 25 N to Christy Culbreath for \$34,350. One of the stipulations of the sale was that an assisted living facility would be opened on the site within two years of closing. The property closed on January 15, 2019 and is scheduled to revert to Edgefield County by a deed restriction on January 15, 2021. As of today, construction has not begun on the project and a building permit has not been submitted to Building and Planning for approval. Ms. Culbreath, now Christie C. Dickerson, has written requesting an extension of the two-year reversion clause. Ms. Dickerson stated that necessary state approvals were delayed by Covid-19. EC's Building Official has confirmed that he has been in contact with Ms. Dickerson's architect and they have received approval from DHEC of the plans.**

**(Exhibit III)**

Mr. Paradise stated that there are no changes since the first reading. Motioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passes unanimously.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consideration of Approval for an Option and Purchase Agreement with Generac Power Systems, Inc.

**This Option and Purchase Agreement is for the purchase of property owned by Edgefield County, tax parcel number 175-00-00-081. This property is located adjacent to the site to be purchased by Generac Power Systems, Inc.**

**(Exhibit IV)**

Mr. Paradise stated that is option ad purchase agreement is for the property that is located adjacent to the site that was purchased by Generac Power systems for 10 years. Motion

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was made by Chairman Cooper and seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passes unanimously.

2. Consideration of Approval to Provide Utilities, Internet, and Other Incidentals to Provide Office Space for Generac Power Systems, Inc. through July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Generac Power Systems, Inc. needs to have temporary office space during the initial renovation of the office portion of their manufacturing facility. This will provide for the payment of utilities, internet, and other incidentals that may be necessary to provide temporary office facilities at no cost to the company. The Town of Trenton is donating the office space.**

Tommy Paradise stated that at least 6-12 people are needing office space to set up temporary until the new facility is renovated. Paradise stated that Mr. Will Williams has spoken to the Town of Trenton, who has office space available at no charge. They only ask that Edgefield County pays the necessary utilities for the office space. Paradise stated that a formal MOU will be provided by the next meeting for approval. Motioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert, seconded by Chairman Cooper Motion passes unanimously.

3. Consideration of Approval to Accept the Roads and Drainage Easement in Phase I and Phase II of Governor's Landing into the Edgefield County Road System.

**Governor's Landing, LLC has requested that Edgefield County take ownership of the road and drainage easement in Phase I and Phase II of Governor's Landing. The subdivision has over 60% of the lots occupied. The roadways and storm water infrastructure were inspected by the Cranston Engineering and found to be in good condition. A bond in the amount of \$48,000 has also been provided for any repairs or improvement required within the next two years.**

**(Exhibit V)**

Mr. Paradise stated that this is the next step for turning over the subdivision roads into county roads so that we could have continued maintenance with the county maintenance system. Paradise states that prior to this ownership of Phase I and Phase II, the subdivision needs to have 60% of the lots occupied. Paradise states the roadways and storm water infrastructure were inspected by the Cranston Engineering and found to be in good condition. Paradise stated that a bond in the amount of \$48,000 has also been provided for any repairs or improvement required within the next two years. Motioned by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passes unanimously.

4. Consideration of Approval of Ordinance Number 20-21-779 An Ordinance to Rezone Certain Previously Zoned Industrial Development (ID) Property Located at 35 Rabbit Trail, Edgefield to be Zoned General Agricultural Development (GD)

**The owner of 35 Rabbit Trail has requested that the property be rezoned from ID to GD which will allow retail sales on this 5.8-acre parcel. The request complies with the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the application.**

**(Exhibit VI)**

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Mr. Paradise stated the owner of this property asked that this property be rezoned from an Industrial property to General Development property. The reason for this rezone is that the industrial district would not allow retail sales. Paradise also stated that the request complies with the Comprehensive Plan, and that the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the application. Councilwoman Kennion asks since the owner asked for the property to be rezoned, is there an automotive shop there? Paradise responded not at that location, it is within the curve, across from the Parkdale Plant. Motioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passes unanimously.

5. Consideration of Approval to Provide 90-Day Notice of Termination of Medical Director Services Agreement with Self Medical Group and Termination of Services Following the 90-Day Notice.

**Emergency Medical Services are required to have a licensed physician contracted as the Medical Control Officer (MCO) for the Service. The MCO provides medical direction for the service and is currently contracted through Self Medical Group which provides a Family Practice certified physician to provide these services. Staff is recommending terminating the agreement with Self Medical Group and contracting with a physician that is specialized in Emergency Medicine. (Exhibit VII)**

Mr. Paradise stated that they are always looking for ways to improve. For Several years we have had a board certified family practitioner involving our medical control officer in the county. Mr. Paradise stated that the Medical Control officer is required by DHEC to give all the standing orders, protocol and other instructions to our EMS employees. Paradise stated that in talking to the EMS staff, and before the former EMS Director Raymond Batchelor had retired, he had spoken to me in changing the Medical Controller officer to someone that had more of an emergency medical background. Mr. Paradise stated that with Raymond only having three months left to retire, there wasn't going to be any changes during his administration. Mr. Paradise stated that new administration, EMS Director Garret Lynn came to me and asked about changing it to someone that is Board Certified in Emergency Medicine. Mr. Paradise asked Lynn, who could we find to fit the bill? Mr. Lynn went out and searched for someone and came back with the following recommendation. Motion to Approve the 90-Day Notice of Termination of Medical Director Services Agreement with Self Medical Group and Termination of Services Following the 90-Day Notice and allow the administrator to negotiate a 90 day reduction once they hire someone for the medical control officer position agreed by both parties. Motioned by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Ireland. Motion passes (4-1) Vice-Chairman Talbert opposed.

6. Consideration of Approval of Entering in a Contract for Medical Control Officer Services from Augusta University.

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**Staff is recommending that Edgefield County obtain a physician that is Board Certified in Emergency Medicine to provide the services as the Medical Control Officer for the county EMS.**

**Augusta University provides the Level I trauma center in the area and operates an emergency physician response vehicle that will be available to Edgefield County EMS under this agreement.**

**Dr. Todd Burgbacher, DO will be the assigned physician. Dr. Burgbacher serves as Assistant Medical Director of Augusta University EMS Fellowship, Assistant Professor Medical College of Georgia Department of Emergency Medicine, Medical Director of Augusta University Paramedic Program, former Medical Director of Air Med helicopter EMS (no longer in service) and one of Augusta University EMS field physicians. Dr. Burgbacher received his undergraduate degree from The University of Florida and his medical degree from Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his emergency medicine training at Medical College of Georgia (now Augusta University) and an EMS Fellowship at University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio. Dr. Burgbacher serves as Assistant Medical Director of Gold Cross EMS and Medical Director of Aiken County EMS. Dr. Burgbacher has also been instrumental in starting Augusta University's Physician Response Vehicle and provides on-scene medical direction and patient care. Dr. Burgbacher is also responsible for Augusta University Emergency Medicine resident rotation during their EMS month.**

**Augusta University provides the Level I trauma center in the area and operates an emergency physician response vehicle that will be available to Edgefield County EMS under this agreement.**

**Staff has received positive responses from other agencies that are being provided Medical Control Officer services by Dr. Burgbacher, including Aiken County, Aiken County Rescue Squad, and Burke County, GA.**

**(Exhibit VIII)**

Mr. Paradise stated that Dr. Burgbacher has a lot of experience in the EMS field, and is board certified in emergency medicine and teaches emergency medicine at Augusta University. Mr. Paradise stated that Dr. Burgbacher is also responsible for the emergency medicine training at Augusta University and operates an emergency physician response vehicle. And in partnering with Augusta University will give us access to that vehicle. Mr. Paradise states that it would partner us with the Level I trauma center in the area, so if there were major injuries, we would have a connection to the hospital that he/she is transported to, and he has experience as a Medical control officer. Mr. Paradise stated that he reached out to other places where he's served, and received great reviews. Mr. Paradise stated that there isn't nothing wrong with our current medical control officer, but having someone that is board certified in emergency medicine would give our service and to the citizens of Edgefield County better medical attention than a

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family practitioner. Chairman Cooper recognized our EMS director, and asked if he would like to speak about either item or how the process took place.

Mr. Lynn states that they were looking for a physician who understood the challenges of EMS and ways that he could help to improve our service. Lynn stated that he spoke to other counties about a medical controller and received mixed reviews, but Mr. Burgbacher had been mentioned several times as a high recommendation from those counties that he served. Lynn stated that he met with Burgbacher in 2020, Burgbacher was eager to serve Edgefield County and willing to help improve EMS services in any way that he can. Lynn stated that he's looking for physician that can improve and align us with our specialty of which is emergency medicine. Lynn also stated that Burgbacher has a lot of experience and he is willing to come in and evaluate our services and show us how we can improve the services that we provide. Mr. Paradise stated that the contract would remain the same price, no change.

Chairman Cooper asks if we approve item number 5 but continue item number 6 the current medical control officer will serve for another 90 days? Mr. Paradise responded yes by contract. Councilwoman Kennion asked are we doing items 5 and 6 together. Chairman Cooper responded no. Councilman Campbell asked if the motion should include the opportunity for the administrator to shorten the 90 days, if both parties agree. That would include whoever the medical control officer would be. So if the time frame would be shortened it would make everyone happy. Campbell stated that you didn't have to do it, but if the opportunity exists, we wouldn't have to vote on it again, considering both parties agree to it. County Attorney Marine stated that it would fine if you wanted to include a motion to do that. Chairman Cooper stated that it would be doable, he feels that it would best to have the contract fulfilled. Vice-Chairman Talbert expressed his concerns that Mr. Paradise has been having problems with Dr. Massey. Vice-Chairman asked how many persons have we looked at for this position, only 1, 2, 3? Paradise explained that Mr. Lynn explained the process that he went through, and as far as himself, he took Mr. Lynn's recommendation. Mr. Paradise stated that Mr. Lynn was better situated in making the evaluation being that he works in this field. Vice-Chairman Talbert also expressed the concerns of hiring someone for a position, persons are either coming from Aiken or North Augusta. Vice-Chairman stated that he knows that Self Regional has persons that qualify, why can't we look at some of those persons? Vice-Chairman Talbert feels that the situation is a "I scratch your back; you scratch mine kind of situation". Paradise responded that he doesn't do back dealings. Paradise explained that this controller would be connected to the Level I Trauma Control Center in our area. Anyone that has significant trauma will going to this hospital that we are partner with. Paradise stated that there is someone at Self Regional that is board certified with a year of experience, but if he were to choose between the two persons based on experiences with emergency medicine, he would recommend Dr. Burgbacher. Vice-Chairman Talbert stated that he understands that this person's resume has six pages, but commented that the six pages of resume have never got the job done. Vice-Chairman stated that since we are with Self Regional why can't we find someone from Self Regional in Greenwood? Have you talked to anyone concerning this matter? Paradise stated that Lynn reached out to other Medical Controllers and brought back the current recommendation. Councilwoman

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Kennion asked are we giving the administrator time to elaborate on this item or has this been elaborated on? Paradise stated that he combined to two items together, and will answer any questions that you may have. Councilwoman Kennion would like to make the motion to continue the approval for entering into a contract for Medical Control Services until the March meeting, so that Council would have more time to review what is going on. In regards to Mr. Lynn that spoke to us, Councilwoman Kennion agrees with Vice-Chairman Talbert that should be more than one applicant and further agree that we should be thinking about our very own hires from in house. Motioned by Councilwoman Kennion to continue the approval of Entering in a Contract for Medical Control Officer Services from Augusta University, seconded by Vice-Chairman Talbert. Motion passes unanimously.

**I. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC**

None

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

- The Edgefield County Hospital audit has been completed and forwarded to our auditors. We anticipate our auditors making the audit presentation at the March meeting.
- Edgefield County was recognized by the SC Association of Counties Insurance Trust by receiving the first-place award for the best reporting of Property & Liability claims.
- The City of North Augusta Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on the draft West Martin town Road Corridor Study on February 18<sup>th</sup>.
- We have hired Pamela Hahn for the Accounts Payable/Payroll Clerk. She has a degree in Computer Science/Accounting from West Virginia University. She has over 20 years of experience in HR, Payroll, Benefits, and General Ledger.
- All of the entrance signs have been installed with the exception of Hwy 283. There some site issues concerning the installation at the spot and an alternative location will need to be found where we can get the necessary distance from the end of the road.
- Edgefield County currently has 375 known Covid-19 cases, down from over 400. 32 people from Edgefield County have died from Covid-19 to date.
- Our first responders now have availability to receive the Covid-19 vaccine at Self-Regional in Greenwood. The information necessary for making an appointment has been distributed by EMA to the chiefs of the agencies.
- Self-Regional is currently planning a Covid-19 vaccine distribution event in Edgefield County for those residents that are able to receive the vaccination in the 1A category. The time/date/and place is still to be determined.
- The S.C. Board of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) met last Wednesday to consider various allocation models for the COVID-19 vaccine; the Board decided to use a per capita method for allocation, which will result in 303 doses weekly being available for Edgefield County. If DHEC had chosen the method that looked at the age and vulnerability of the residents this number would have been 541 doses per week. This change goes into effect February 11<sup>th</sup>.



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- I recently learned that DHEC has Community Health Workers that work in the underserved community. Part of their duties includes providing Covid-19 information and saliva testing. However, the Edgefield County position is currently vacant. I talked with the supervisor, Pamala Addison. As a result of this conversation, she is going to have Community Health Workers from the adjacent counties start providing services throughout Edgefield County until one is hired for Edgefield County. I also offered the posting of the position on Edgefield County's Facebook page and website. This position should be helpful in catching those residents who would otherwise fall through the cracks.
- Seven of our EMTs have completed the Advance EMT course. The employees took this course on their time and the course was provided by a grant from Upper Savannah COG & Piedmont Tec. So, there was no cost to the County for this training.
- Staff requested that Edgefield County be included in the Upper Savannah COG's CDBG-CV grant request. This is a regional request with Greenwood County be the lead county with the application request. Four vehicles were requested for the Sheriff's Office that would be designed to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission while transporting suspects, a replacement ambulance for our EMS, a full body scanner for the Jail, and other assorted medical equipment for EMS. This grant application does not require a match.

**COMMENTS BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIR**

- Chairman Cooper asked that Councilwoman Ireland share the news that was reported in this week's paper. Councilwoman stated that Broadband is coming to Edgefield County through our Aiken Electric Cooperative. Councilwoman Ireland stated that this Internet service will service co-op members who are underserved and those who do not have internet access especially within her district and Vice Chairman Talbert' District. Councilwoman Ireland gave thanks to the Aiken Cooperative in their commitment to doing business here in Edgefield County and for being a provider of this internet service for Edgefield County. Councilwoman stated that it will take some time due to infrastructure and other matters, but it will be available for Edgefield County. Councilwoman also gave special thanks for Representative Bill Hixon who got with DHEC last week. He made it possible for all our EMS, First Responders, and Law Enforcement to receive the vaccine in Greenwood. Special thanks were given to Suzy Spurgeon, Garret Lynn and Tommy Paradise for coordinating a clinic to come to Edgefield County.
- Chairman Cooper recognized Will Williams, the Economic Development Partnership and all team members who worked to bring Generac to Edgefield County.
- Chairman Cooper mentioned a couple years ago we passed ordinances related to Enterprise / Opportunity Zones. He then asked Councilman Campbell to explain that process and how we might expand that effort and harness the momentum of Generac to highlight these efforts. It was also mentioned that the President of the South Carolina African American Chamber of Commerce would be at our March County Council meeting to discuss these issues.
- Chairman Cooper mentioned we extended the LMO process until the first of the year and shared his belief it was a good thing more individuals were looking at the LMO Draft. He encouraged folks to look at the map, read the draft document and submit comments to Kevin Singletary.

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Chairman Cooper stressed it is a draft, and that it has not passed. The extension has provided constituents an extra year to look at the draft.

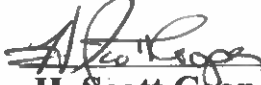
- When Chairman Cooper asked if there were any additional questions or comments, Dr. Kennion asked about the trash situation. Administrator Paradise explained the current situation regarding trash cleanup.

**ADJOURN**

Motioned by Vice Chairman Talbert. Seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. The meeting adjourned at 6:44pm. Motion passed unanimously.

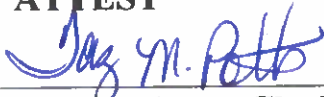
**To watch the County Council Meeting live via YouTube: Subscribe to our YouTube Page – Edgefield County Government. You'll be able to see upcoming meetings and can be notified when we go live.**

Edgefield County Council



H. Scott Cooper, Chair

ATTEST



Taz M. Potts, Clerk to Council