

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 8, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

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The Edgefield County Council held their special called meeting at 6:00 PM Monday, March 8, 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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Others present

Tommy Paradise, County Administrator
Taz Potts, Council Clerk

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order and Taz Potts, Clerk to Council 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 Chairman Cooper. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into executive session was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Vice-Chairman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to return from executive session was made by Councilwoman Ireland, seconded by Vice Chairman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of Approval to authorize the County Administrator to have a Survey Made on the Old Neighborhood Center Property located at 400 Church St. Edgefield.

Edgefield County has an offer to purchase the property located at 400 Church St, known as the old Neighborhood Center. The proposed purchaser has requested the actual acreage and survey of the property. This should be able to be provided for \$1,500 or less and the funds will come from the County Administrator's Professional Services account.

Motioned by Councilwoman Ireland, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Council Campbell asked was this just for a survey and not for approval to sell the land or the building? Mr. Paradise stated that was correct, Mr. Paradise also stated that he anticipates an ordinance which would take three readings. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIR

Councilwoman Kennion asked about the small group meetings with our constituents concerning the LMO? Chairman Cooper stated there were several comments at the meeting in February, where the people didn't feel comfortable speaking at Sweetwater Baptist Church. The pastor of

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the church said that Edgefield County Government are no longer allowed to have meetings there. So in order to give people an opportunity to be heard, the meetings were held by district. As this draft is being reviewed and rewritten, those meetings will be the Planning Commissioner for that District, County Council member for that District, and One at large member. There's never a quorum involved. The next public hearing will be held after the draft is written or the edits are completely done, and citizens will have time to review that new draft. Mr. Paradise stated that it's a fact finding mission, during the meeting at the Baptist church there was an attorney representing 11 residents of the Edgefield County, and she recommended that we have smaller groups to get more input. So that is what the County have been looking into doing. It is designed for you have a conversation with a small group, for a better understanding and change of ideas than in a larger group. We haven't had this yet. But once postcards are issued, people will be able to sign up by district and express their views. Councilwoman stated that some of her constituents are asking why the small group meeting per district, how we would combine what the constituents are saying, in order to be on the same page. Paradise stated that there will be different issues from different parts of the County, and the Planning Commission will be listening to those issues from each district and bringing the information back to Council. Councilwoman Ireland provided an example of so many people signing up in her district to attend these meetings, and less sign up in other districts, she asks would we have room to accommodate for these meetings due to timing and schedules as well? Mr. Paradise stated that we will work through it. Council members, planning commission are not required to attend the meetings, but we hope they will. Councilwoman Ireland asks if a Councilmember say don't put a number on it and let everybody that wants to come to the meeting, just come. Paradise stated that it would be counter-productive, it would not show unity, we would be treating one portion of the County different than the rest. The main issue is to have good communication with your constituents. Chairman Cooper stated that he could understand why people would want that, but what he knows to be true is that individuals from the multiple districts choose to leave the meeting at the church, because they were not going to speak in that environment. This draft is not what council wants, the planning commission or the constituents want, but what we do want is for everyone to participate, it may be cumbersome but at the end of the day it will be better. Mr. Paradise stated that these meetings procedurally, are not in our hands, it's the planning commissions call on how to conduct these meetings. Councilwoman Ireland states that these meetings are more considered under the Planning Commissions umbrella. But as Council Members we can hold our own town meetings throughout our district, and we could open the doors for our own hearing abilities. Mr. Paradise stated that there will be two public hearings, one before the planning commission and one before Council, both of them can have more public hearings if needed. Paradise stated that this is not an avenue to cut of the public comment or trying to circumvent the public, this is just a way to have a reasonable, cordial conversation with your constituents to gather their information.

ADJOURN

Motioned by Councilman Campbell. Seconded by Councilwoman Ireland. The meeting adjourned at 7:42pm. Motion passed unanimously.

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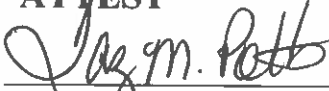
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Edgefield County Council



H. Scott Cooper, Chair

ATTEST



Taz M. Potts, Clerk to Council