

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

May 7, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, May 7, 2019 in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield, SC. Notice of this meeting was provided to Edgefielddaily.com, The Edgefield Advertiser and others as requested.

Members present

Scott Cooper, Chairman

Albert Talbert, Vice Chairman

Arthur Biggs, Councilman

Dean Campbell, Councilman

Dr. Jacqueline Kennion, Councilwoman

Others present

Tommy Paradise, County Administrator

Andrew Marine, County Attorney

Jennifer Gilley, Clerk to Council

and others as per list attached

Others absent

Bruce Cooley, Assistant Administrator/Finance Director

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order. He noted that Mr. Cooley was absent. The invocation was given by Chairman Cooper. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was then recited.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the May 7, 2019 agenda was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the March 18, 2019 County Council minutes (Budget Work Session of Council) and the April 2, 2019 County Council minutes (Regular Meeting of Council) was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers

None

Comments from the Public

None

Reports

There were no questions nor discussion on the reports.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Cooper suggested Mr. John Pettigrew be removed from the list of reappointments. He explained that Mr. Pettigrew has served for a number of years and has asked not to be reappointed. Chairman Cooper

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

May 7, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

then asked Council if there were any other items that needed to be removed from the Consent Agenda to allow discussion. There were none. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Biggs. Motion passed unanimously.

- 1. Consideration of Re-appointments to the Economic Development Committee.
 - Kevin L. O’GormanECSD
 - Richard PendarvisEDP
 - Eric Thompson.....EDP
 - *John Pettigrew.....Private Sector Business Owner

*REMOVED AND WAS NOT RE-APPOINTED

Consent Agenda Ends Here

Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 18-19-759, “An Ordinance Amending the County of Edgefield Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan.”

1. Linda Anderson – Mrs. Anderson said that she was told several projects were removed from the proposed plan but when she was looking over the plan online, the changes weren’t reflected in the plan. She wanted to know if the removed projects on Mealing Road had been added back to the plan. She asked if other changes had been made that weren’t reflected on the plan that is posted online. She finished her comments by asking if things could be added and deleted before third reading passed.

Mr. Paradise told Mrs. Anderson that the projects on Mealing Road have been removed from the plan and that after this meeting a plan showing all of the revisions would be posted on the webstie. He said due to the cost involved staff decided post all of the revisions between 2nd and 3rd reading so that it wouldn’t have to be done twice. He went on to say that changes can be made prior to third reading by Council.

2. Joel Presley – Mr. Presley told Council that he is a native to Edgefield County and has worked in the past by helping to develop areas. He brought in handouts for Council of “A Model of Better Models for Development in the Shenandoah Valley 2010.” He explained that he was hoping Council would look over the model presented to provide guidance on some decisions that may cause consequences after the development is finished. He said that while he believes this plan is very important, he believes it is only one tool to help with development and he would like to see Council use as many tools as possible to ensure the best development for Edgefield County.

3. Todd Brown – Mr. Brown started by agreeing with Mr. Presley’s comments. Mr. Brown also noted the plan using words such as “quality” that leave room for interpretation and he said he would like to see those words defined so that everyone understands the same standard when developing in the future. Mr. Brown also noted that he sees the county’s lack of development as an opportunity. He said at this point, the county can control the development and in doing this keep the identity the county has established. Mr. Brown said another tool to use would be zoning.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

May 7, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

He also said that he would like to see more public/county collaboration as well as more input from the Planning Commission.

4. Barbara Cooper – Mrs. Cooper said that she and her family own 450 acres in Edgefield County and would like to know that if it is developed in the future, it will be developed well. She said that while many would like to see Edgefield County remain rural, she believes the growth will come anyway. She said because of this, she would like to see the proposed plan address issues such as lot size and the lack of sewer in some areas of the county. Mrs. Cooper also said that she would like to see a certain percentage of property remain undeveloped for a green viewable space.
 5. Dixie Culbreath – Mrs. Culbreath echoed Mrs. Cooper’s comments. She said she owns over 200 acres in the Merriwether Area and would like to see the plan address suburban density and lot size. She said that the area outlined as Suburban Density doesn’t allow for commercial use but what will that do for businesses such as Gurosik’s Farm or others like it that may want to located in that area in the future. Mrs. Culbreath also said that she believes the market should determine the lot size and not this plan. She thanked Council for their consideration on everyone’s comments.
 6. John Pettigrew – Mr. Pettigrew started his comments by saying that he appreciates the comments that he heard prior to him speaking. He said that he agrees with their views and would like to see Council take their time with this plan so that it can be done right the first time. He said he doesn’t want to see this plan changing in the future to correct errors that could possibly be prevented with a little more planning time. Mr. Pettigrew also pointed out that some of the areas labeled suburban density (that doesn’t allow commercial) were recently passed as incentive zones by Council to promote commercial business. Mr. Pettigrew said that he would also like to see overlay districts and zoning work with this plan to control development in Edgefield County. He referred to a recent newspaper article speaking about a neighboring county that is having problems with controlling their own development and says he doesn’t want to see Edgefield County put in the same position. Mr. Pettigrew also shared that he doesn’t believe that 2 acre lots will allow for affordable lots. He finished his comments by saying he would like to see the lot size removed from the plan and let the overlay districts and zoning handle the smaller details.
2. Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 18-19-757, “An Ordinance to Authorize the Third Amendment to the Agreement for Development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park Dated as of December 31, 1996, between Aiken County and Edgefield County, as Previously Amended, to Extend the Term of the Agreement and Expand the Area of the Park which is located in Aiken County and Other Matters Related Thereto.”
There were no comments regarding this public hearing.
 3. Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 18-19-758, “An Ordinance Authorizing Amendments to the Agreement for Development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park between Aiken County and Edgefield County, Dated as of May 8, 2018, to Expand the Area of the Park which is located in Aiken County and Change the Name of the Park to “Aiken County/Edgefield County-Zeus Industrial Products, Inc.” and Authorizing other matters related thereto.”
There were no comments regarding this public hearing.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

May 7, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

4. Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 18-19-760, “An Ordinance Providing for the FY 2019-2020 General Operating Budget and Establishing Ancillary Budgets for Debt Service, E-911 Administration, Industrial Park, Solid Waste Disposal, Victims’ Bill of Rights, Emergency Medical Services, Countywide Recreation, Road Maintenance, Tri-County Solicitor, Assistant Solicitor, School Resource Officer #1, School Resource Officer #2, School Resource Officer #3, Event Security, Sheriff Grants, Clerk of Court Grants, Pre-Trial Intervention, SRO Grant, and Domestic Violence.”
 1. Gail Smith – Mrs. Smith said she was speaking on behalf of the Edgefield Mental Health Clinic. She said they are requesting to be put back into the budget for funding. She explained that until 2010 they received approximately \$6,000 in funding. Mrs. Smith said that other counties receive funding from their County’s budget. She reminded Council that she’d come to a previous Council meeting requesting a donation of \$250 for snacks but didn’t receive it. Councilman Campbell asked Mrs. Smith to explain how they are primarily funded. Mrs. Smith said they are federally and state funded. She said they are also eligible for grants. Councilman Campbell asked what the budget for their fiscal year totals. Mrs. Smith asked if he wanted the budget for just the Edgefield Office or all 7 Counties that fall under Beckman Mental Health. Councilman Campbell said he was specifically asking about the Edgefield Office but both numbers would be good to know. Mrs. Smith didn’t have the answer to either but said she would find out and come back to Council.
 2. Doug Timmerman – Mr. Timmerman said the Edgefield Civic League opens the Archives up to the public for the County on Monday through Friday from 9AM to Noon. He explained that this has increased Tonya Guy’s hours. He explained that due to the increase in hours, they are responsible for providing Mrs. Guy with benefits. He explained they currently receive \$1,200 per month but are asking for that to be increased to \$1,400 per month to help cover the cost of benefits. Councilman Talbert said this would be taken into consideration by Council. Councilman Campbell asked what additional benefits will the County get in return for the increase for the additional funding. Mr. Timmerman said they are working on building a database that can be easily accessed in the future. Councilman Campbell stated that is what the original MOU was designed to cover. Mr. Timmerman agreed.
 3. Rick Berry – Mr. Berry said that he would like Council to seriously consider the funding requests. He said additional funding for these entities would impact the citizens in a positive manner.
 4. Bennett Casto – Mr. Casto said he works for the Public Defenders’ Office also referred to as the Tri-County Solicitor’s Office. He said they requested an increase of \$30,000 per year and were granted a \$15,000 increase per year bringing their budget to \$45,000 for FY 2019-2020 from Edgefield County. He explained they provide counsel for those that cannot afford counsel. Mr. Casto said that he would also like to be able to fund an additional position for his office. Councilman Campbell asked Mr. Casto exactly what he is requesting from Council. He said that he would like the additional \$15,000 that was originally requested as well as funding for an additional position in his office. Chairman Cooper asked what that additional position would be and how much it would cost. Mr. Casto said the position would be either an Attorney I or II. He said the salary would be approximately \$55,000 a year but around \$80,000 if you include benefits.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

May 7, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Councilman Campbell asked their other forms of funding. Mr. Casto said they receive funding form the state as well as the other counties they serve which are Saluda and McCormick.

5. Louise Kemp-Settles – Mrs. Kemp-Settles gave an update on GLEAMNS and the work she is doing while serving on this Commission. She also said that any donations would be welcomed to help her continue to do the work she does with the citizens of Edgefield County.
6. Harold Wittick – Mr. Wittick said he was speaking on behalf of Liberty Springs Baptist Church. He said they would like to put restrooms at Northside Park and they would like for the County to fund this project. He said they believe this will cost approximately \$20,000. Councilman Talbert said this park was used for County Recreation in the past. He said in the past the County had an agreement that included putting restrooms at this park. He explained the land wouldn't perk and that is why restrooms weren't put at Northside Park. Councilman Talbert explained the land will now perk and he said County Council would take this into consideration for funding. Mr. Wittick asked what he needs to do to take the next step. Mr. Paradise said the church has made the request. He explained that staff has to research the legal details about using public money to fund a privately owned project. He said that if everything was legal, then Council would need to decide if they want to fund this project. Councilman Campbell noted this is no longer a County Park. He said the County leased this property from the churches that owned it decided not to renew the lease several years ago. Chairman Cooper asked Mr. Wittick if the churches (16 total) would be willing to lease, sell or possible donate the land to the County. Mr. Wittick said he wasn't able to speak for everyone but that he would look into that for Council. Councilwoman Kennion asked why the bathrooms weren't put on the property when the County leased the park. Councilman Talbert said the property wouldn't perk at that time. Councilman Biggs said that while he believes the county needs more parks for recreation, he doesn't believe in spending money on property that doesn't belong to Edgefield County. Chairman Cooper asked what years the county had a lease on Northside Park. Mr. Paradise said the lease started in 2000 and was terminated in 2012. Chairman Cooper said Council would take this under consideration and have the County Attorney research this request and then Mr. Paradise would get back in touch with Mr. Wittick.

Old Business

1. Consideration of Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 18-19-759, "An Ordinance Amending the County of Edgefield Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan."
Chairman Cooper asked Mr. John Ford if anything had changed with this ordinance or if Council needed to know anything else regarding this plan. Mr. Ford said he has a handout with 2 proposed changes based on comments he has heard from council, staff and the public. The first change proposed would be to under the Estate Residential section on page 7.6. This change would add the following language: However, the minimum lot size in this land use area may vary on the basis of suitable topography and access to utilities. It is assumed that some portions of this area may be developed at 0.5 units per acre (approximately two acres in lot size).
The second proposed change would be in Table 7.4 on page 7.11 on the Suburban Density Residential line. It would read straight across as All Single Family Residential/Light-residential-oriented commercial/Commercial and Industrial.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

May 7, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Motion to approve second reading of ordinance number 18-19-759 was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Talbert. This entered Council into discussion.

Motion to amend Ordinance Number 18-19-759 by removing a sentence in the Estate Residential section on page 7.6 and adding the additional language presented was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilman Talbert. That section will now read: This category features very low density single family residential development on large lots. However, the minimum lot size in this land use area may vary on the basis of suitable topography and access to utilities. It is assumed that some portions of this area may be developed at 0.5 units per acre (approximately two acres in lot size) to provide developers with flexibility in creating affordable home sites. Water, power, and communications cables are assumed to be tied to the local dedicated street system with substantive added costs in extending into deep lots. The areas in this land use category are not considered likely to provide adequate densities to support the expansion of extensive public sewer collection systems or wastewater treatment and may require higher costs for other utilities as a trade-off for more land. This motion passed 3-2 with Chairman Cooper and Councilwoman Kennion opposing.

Motion to amend Ordinance Number 18-19-759 by changing Table 7.4 on page 7.11 on the Suburban Density Residential line was made Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Biggs. That line will now read straight across as All Single Family Residential/commercial uses/Industrial. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cooper then asked for a final vote on the main motion. The main motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of Third Reading of Ordinance 18-19-757, "An Ordinance to Authorize the Third Amendment to the Agreement for Development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park Dated as of December 31, 1996, between Aiken County and Edgefield County, as Previously Amended, to Extend the Term of the Agreement and Expand the Area of the Park which is located in Aiken County and Other Matters Related Thereto."

Chairman Cooper asked Mr. Paradise if anything had changed with this ordinance. Mr. Paradise said nothing had changed in this ordinance. There was no discussion.

Motion to approve third reading of ordinance number 18-19-757 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Biggs. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of Third Reading of Ordinance 18-19-758, "An Ordinance Authorizing Amendments to the Agreement for Development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park between Aiken County and Edgefield County, Dated as of May 8, 2018, to Expand the Area of the Park which is located in Aiken County and Change the Name of the Park to "Aiken County/Edgefield County-Zeus Industrial Products, Inc." and Authorizing other matters related thereto."

Chairman Cooper asked Mr. Paradise if anything had changed with this ordinance. Mr. Paradise said nothing had changed in this ordinance. There was no discussion.

Motion to approve third reading of ordinance number 18-19-758 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 18-19-760, "An Ordinance Providing for the FY 2019-2020 General Operating Budget and Establishing Ancillary Budgets for Debt Service, E-911 Administration, Industrial Park, Solid Waste Disposal, Victims' Bill of Rights,

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

May 7, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Emergency Medical Services, Countywide Recreation, Road Maintenance, Tri-County Solicitor, Assistant Solicitor, School Resource Officer #1, School Resource Officer #2, School Resource Officer #3, Event Security, Sheriff Grants, Clerk of Court Grants, Pre-Trial Intervention, SRO Grant, and Domestic Violence.”

Motion to approve second reading of ordinance number 18-19-760 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. This entered Council into discussion.

Councilman Biggs asked Mr. Paradise to review the specific request regarding the Archives. Mr. Paradise stated they received \$14,400 in the current fiscal year. He said they requested \$16,800 for the upcoming fiscal year and staff recommended \$14,400 for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Paradise explained that when he spoke to Mr. Timmerman about the increase it was to help cover the cost of providing benefits to Tonya Guy who is now working over 30 hours a week due to the contract. Motion to amend second reading of ordinance number 18-19-760 to include an increase of \$2,400 requested by Edgefield Civic League was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. This entered Council into discussion. Councilman Campbell said that he would like to see this tabled for one month to give all of the Councilmembers time to read the contract prior to increasing the annual amount of the contract. He explained they are not providing more service, they are doing what is required in the contract. He said the county shouldn't be required to cover the benefits for Mrs. Guy due to the Edgefield Civic League increasing Mrs. Guy's hours. Councilman Talbert said he doesn't understand why it has been cut and then added back in, he wanted to vote and move forward. Councilman Biggs said he hasn't had a chance to go over the contract and he would like for this to be tabled until next month, so he would have time to review the contract and make an educated vote. Motion passed 3-2 with Councilmen Campbell and Biggs voting against.

Councilwoman Kennion said she wanted to know why Edgefield County hadn't funded Mental Health since 2010. She stated that she believes this is a very important program and they need to be funded by Edgefield County Council especially since other counties help fund their Mental Health Offices. Councilman Campbell said there are many counties that don't fund their Mental Health Offices. He went on to say that Mrs. Smith didn't know the bottom line number of her budget nor have they needed the funding since 2010, so why do they need it now and if they do need it why can't it be justified. Councilman Campbell said that he agrees that mental health is a very important issue but if they don't have a justification for additional funding, he doesn't see the need to give them tax payer dollars. Councilwoman Kennion said she believes it should be included in the budget. Councilman Biggs said he believes that the County can't be responsible to fund every worthwhile cause that comes to Council asking for funding. No motion was made regarding Mental Health funding.

Mr. Paradise then reviewed the two following Memorandums:

Memorandum Number 1
County of Edgefield

To: County Council
From: Tommy Paradise, County Administrator
Reference: County Budget 2019-2020

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

May 7, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Date: April 29, 2019

Since the April meeting of County Council several items have come up that have resulted in staff proposing changes to the proposed FY 19-20 budget.

Edgefield County received notice from the SC Department of Health and Human Services that the county's required contribution to fund the Medically Indigent Assistance Act (MIAA) for FY 2019-20 is \$83,772. The current budget has proposed funding this account at \$97,526 and can be reduced by \$13,754.

The state legislature has approved for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to change the registration for boats and motors from a three-year registration to an annual registration where county taxes have to be paid prior to issuance. This will require the auditor's office to purchase and maintain new software to enable compliance with this state mandate. Staff has recently learned that this additional cost will be an additional \$12,200. Staff would recommend amending the county-wide Special Contract line an additional \$12,200 to accommodate this increase.

In reviewing the line item for the administrator's Professional Service line item, it was discovered that the \$130,000 funding for this account would not cover the \$45,000 needed to purchase computers for the coming year. Staff had previously added an additional \$20,000 to the county-wide Special Contract line to help replace computers as emergency situations arise. Staff would recommend increasing this line by an additional \$25,000 to \$345,226 so that the computer replacements are funded.

These recommended changes will increase the county-wide Special Contract line to \$357,466 and reduce the Medical Indigent Professional Services line to \$83,772. These changes will result in an additional \$23,446 in expenditures changing the amount of fund balance brought forward to \$553,337 resulting in 4.5 months of reserves in the fund balance.

Memorandum Number 2
County of Edgefield

To: County Council
From: Tommy Paradise
Reference: Heavy Equipment Operators
Date: April 29, 2019

The Road Department, which is funded by the \$27 road fee, is staffed by one supervisor and six heavy equipment operators. The department utilizes the six heavy equipment operators to staff two motor graders to continually scrape the dirt roads and two 2-man crews to do road maintenance. In the past year, this department has been able to maintain 4 heavy equipment operators, while the other two positions have been filled and vacated several times. Recently, one of the 4 heavy equipment operators took a position in the private sector while another probationary operator resigned. This has left the department with only 3 heavy equipment operators, half of what they are budgeted. These positions must be able to operate commercial vehicles with trailers, backhoe, bush hog, and other equipment as well as manual labor.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

May 7, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

The Edgefield County starting salary for these positions is \$25,288 per year or \$12.15 per hour. The average starting pay for the counties contiguous with Edgefield County (Saluda, McCormick, Aiken, & Greenwood) is \$13.66. The average starting pay for a heavy equipment operator for all counties in the state is \$13.36, while the average for municipalities is \$14.65. A review of the SC Works website for job opportunities found three municipal governments and two counties advertising for similar positions. The average starting pay for these positions was \$14.14.

In addition, the county must compete with the private sector to recruit for these positions. A review of two private sector businesses operating in Edgefield County found that the average starting pay for a Class B CDL operator is \$13.75 per hour and another firm requiring a Class A CDL starts out at \$13.50 per hour with increases of up to \$28.80 per hour.

The proposed change in the budget for salaries and fringe for the Road Department would be as follows if the starting salary is increased to \$14.48/hour (\$30,118.40 annually) and increase the salary of the three who are currently employed from a \$1,000 increase to a \$2,000 increase:

	Salaries	Retirement	FICA	Total
Current	\$248,209	\$36,140	\$18,988	\$303,337
Proposed	\$249,092	\$36,268	\$19,056	\$304,416
Difference	\$ 883	\$ 128	\$ 68	\$ 1,079

This change would increase the amount transferred from the Road Maintenance Budget reserves by \$1,079.

Motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-760 to include the changes presented by Mr. Paradise in the above memorandums was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Biggs. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cooper said he would take a final vote on the main motion. The main motion with amendments passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Consideration of approval of Resolution Number 18-19-1012, "A Resolution providing for an Intergovernmental Agreement between Edgefield and McCormick Counties, whereby the two Counties will jointly utilize Edgefield County's Convenience Center located at the Intersection of US Highway 378 and S-19-67."

Mr. Paradise told Council that Edgefield County owns a convenience center on Hwy 378 near the McCormick County line. He said Citizens in McCormick County are permitted to use this site in exchange for McCormick County paying one-half the labor costs at the facility. Mr. Paradise said this agreement has been in effect since July 2002 and is renewed each year.

Motion to approve resolution number 18-19-1012 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Cooper. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of approval of extending the contract with Southern National Services.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

May 7, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Mr. Paradise said this contract for janitorial services expires June 31st. The terms of the contract are for one year and the County may extend the contract for additional terms not to exceed five (5) years in total if it appears to be in the best interest of the County. He said staff would recommend extending the contract with Southern National Services for an additional year, July 1, 2019 to June 31, 2020 at the price of \$63,850. He also said this would be the fourth contract extension with Southern National Services. Councilman Biggs asked if there was a clause for a price increase each year. Mr. Paradise said the price remains the same.

Motion to approve the extension of the contract with Southern National Services was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of approval of extending the contract with Cullum Services, Inc.

Mr. Paradise said the contract for HVAC maintenance service and repairs with Cullum Services, Inc. expires on July 30, 2019. The contract for these services began July 1, 2017 with an option a renewal option for up to 5 years. Cullum Services, Inc. received this contract through the competitive bidding process in the spring of 2017. He said staff is recommending to extend the contract with Cullum Services, Inc. for an additional year, July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. This would be the second contract extension with Cullum Services, Inc. Councilman Biggs asked if there was a clause for a price increase each year. Mr. Paradise said the price remains the same.

Motion to approve the extension of the contract with Cullum Services, Inc. was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Approval to Authorize the County Administrator to move funds from the Administration Professional Services Account in the amount of \$40,000 and the Council Contingency Account in the amount of \$35,000 to fund an escrow account for County signage.

Mr. Paradise explained that during the budget workshop Council indicated a desire to move forward with implementation of welcome signs along major roads entering Edgefield County. The Administrator's Professional Services Account has a balance of \$46,256 remaining and the Council Contingency Account has \$38,467 remaining for FY 2018-19. He said staff is recommending moving \$40,000 from the Administration Professional Services Account, leaving a balance of \$6,256 and \$35,000 from the Council Contingency Account, which would leave \$3,467 to an escrow account to fund this signage.

Motion to approve the authorization of the County Administrator to move funds from the Administration Professional Services Account in the amount of \$40,000 and the Council Contingency Account in the amount of \$35,000 to fund an escrow account for County signage was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Approval of First Reading of Ordinance Number 18-19-761, "An Ordinance to Amend Rules of Parliamentary Procedure in Section 2-52, Rule 23."

Mr. Paradise explained Section 2-52, Rule 23 allows public comments at any regular meeting of county council on matters pertaining to county services and operations. Each citizen is allow a maximum of three minutes to speak and the period for citizen comment is limited to a total of 20 minutes. The amendment proposed by Councilman Talbert would increase the maximum allowed time for a person to speak to five minutes with a total of 30 minutes being allowed for citizen participation.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

May 7, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Motion to approve first reading of ordinance number 18-19-761 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of Approval of First Reading of Ordinance Number 18-19-762, “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 Known as Green Energy Biofuel, LLC and Mobettah, LLC; (2) the Execution and Delivery of a 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.”

Mr. Paradise said this ordinance is to establish a multi-county industrial park (MCIP) with Aiken County. The park will be located in Aiken County. He said this is a typical agreement to create a multi-county park will allow for the industry in the park to receive certain incentives from the state and Aiken County. Edgefield County will receive 1% of the FILOT and Aiken County will retain 99%, as is standard with MCIP agreements. This is just a procedural function that will not involve Edgefield County creating a new industrial park or requiring any investment on the part of Edgefield County.

Motion to approve first reading of ordinance number 18-19-762 was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Biggs. Motion passed 4-1 with Councilman Talbert abstaining.

Comments from the Public

1. James Brodie - Mr. Brodie first apologized for how he said his comments at the last meeting. He then went on to say that he wanted to speak about former employee, Judge Robert Peeler. He asked if Judge Peeler was bonded by the County. Mr. Paradise said that he was bonded through the County while he was a Judge for Edgefield County Probate Court. He said that he believes Judge Peeler and his ex-wife, Barbara Brodie, conspired against him. He said that it is his opinion that they wanted him to have to file bankruptcy so that she would get half of everything they owned. He went on to say that he has filed a complaint with the Judicial System and he believes they committed fraud and forgery. Mr. Paradise responded to Mr. Brodie’s comments by saying this was an issue for the Office of Judicial Conduct for their Disciplinary Council to investigate. Mr. Paradise explained the County has no authority over Elected Officials. He said the Disciplinary Council would handle any reprimands if they were needed. He also said he had talked with SLED and was told the Office of Judicial Conduct would handle any criminal issues arising from the matter if necessary.
2. Annette Holloway – Mrs. Holloway told Council she is interested in hosting a “Juneteenth Festival” at the Edgefield County Recreation Park also referred to as Bettis Park. She explained that she would like to reserve the dates of June 12th and 13th of 2020 but due to rental policy she was unable to rent more than 3 months ahead. Mrs. Holloway asked Council if they would consider waiving the 3 month policy and \$500 rental fee by cosponsoring the event. Council agreed for this item to be included on the June 4, 2019 agenda for an official vote.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

May 7, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

3. There was a third gentleman signed up to speak, Mr. Wittick but he spoke during the public hearing for the budget. He had no further comments.

County Administrator's Report

Mr. Paradise started his report by telling Council Carolyn Piekieniak donated plants and planted the flower bed in front of the Kneece Building with help from Gloria Bynum.

Mr. Paradise then told Council the Augusta Regional Traffic Study (ARTS) SC Policy sub-committee approved amending the FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program to include a corridor study for Martintown Road between Gregory Lake Road and Coulter Drive. He explained this portion of Martintown is in the City of North Augusta and the City would like to study the traffic pattern in light of development pressure that will occur in the near future.

Next Mr. Paradise said EDTS will be upgrading the internet connection for Administration Office from 20 MG to 100 MG and the internet connection for EMS on Star Road from DSL (1.5 MG) to 20 MG. He said this will result in a savings of \$1,056 annually.

Mr. Paradise then went on to say staff will be updating the computer system's program that prohibits websites that do not conform to the purpose, goals, and mission of Edgefield County operations. He said all department heads and elected/appointed officials have been notified of this update. He also noted that during this process there may be sites that are restricted which have a legitimate County purpose to access, which will be corrected.

Mr. Paradise moved on and said that after advertising for bids and consultation with the SC Fire Academy, staff will be purchasing a tanker simulator for \$7,200 plus tax and shipping. He said this purchase is using the sole source procurement policy after no bids were received and the SC Fire Academy informed us they knew of only one company with sold this training aid.

Mr. Paradise closed his report by saying the roof replacement project on the Agriculture Building has been completed.

Comments by County Council Chair

Chairman Cooper simply thanked everyone for their service to the county.

Executive Session

None

Adjourn

Councilman Talbert made the motion to adjourn at 9:10PM, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

May 7, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Edgefield County Council

ATTEST

H. Scott Cooper, Chair

Jennifer L. Gilley, Clerk to Council