

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

June 4, 2019

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, June 4, 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

Bruce Cooley, Assistant Administrator/Finance Director

Andrew Marine, County Attorney

Jennifer Gilley, Clerk to Council

and others as per list attached

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Pastor Bruce Cooley. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was then recited.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the June 4, 2019 agenda was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the May 7, 2019 County Council minutes (Regular Meeting of Council) was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers

1. Consideration of Approval of Resolution Number 18-19-1021, "A Resolution Recognizing Kelvin Thomas."

Chairman Cooper read the resolution recognizing Kelvin Thomas:

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING KELVIN THOMAS

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2019, EMT Kelvin Thomas was off duty when he heard Edgefield County EMS dispatched to a patient fainting in the roadway; and

WHEREAS, EMT Kelvin Thomas responded to the scene, arrived in less than one minute, and advised the responding EMS unit that the patient was not breathing and had no pulse; and

WHEREAS, EMT Kelvin Thomas began CPR on the patient and after two minutes of CPR the patient regained a pulse and was breathing; and

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WHEREAS, by the prompt actions of EMT Kelvin Thomas to provide swift lifesaving measures enabled the patient to recover from the medical incident.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Edgefield County Council in session duly assembled this Fourth day of June, 2019, EMT Kelvin Thomas be honored for his service to the citizens of Edgefield County.

Chairman Cooper then turned the floor over to Mike Butler with Edgefield County Emergency Medical Services to present Kelvin “BJ” Thomas, EMT for Edgefield County EMS, with a plaque recognizing his commitment and dedication to the health and wellbeing of the citizens in Edgefield County.

Motion to approve resolution number 18-19-1021 was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Public

1. Boyce Kale – Mr. Kale told Council he is not in favor of another development near Murrah Road. He said that he believes that road is already too congested and that another development would just make things worse. He also said that he is weary of the proposed plan for a development consisting of approximately 450 houses simply because it has changed so many times. Mr. Paradise responded to Mr. Kale by saying that if the proposed project passed there will be an ordinance with rules and regulations. He went on to explain that if in the future, that plan needs to change, it would have to go through an approval process first. He said that approval process would include public notice and a public hearing from the Planning Commission and then three readings of an ordinance and a public hearing from County Council.
2. John Pettigrew – Mr. Pettigrew said that he would like to speak on the Comprehensive Plan again. He said he still has concerns about the specified lot sizes in Estate Residential and Suburban Residential Areas. He said he believes lot sizes should be decided based on overlay districts, zoning and development standards. He said he understands the land management ordinance will be in the works very soon and this issue should be addressed when that ordinance is developed in his opinion. Mr. Pettigrew also said that the proposed development Mr. Kale was referring to doesn't follow the specifications in the Comprehensive Plan so he thinks that is another reason to remove the lot size requirements.
3. Linda Anderson – Mrs. Anderson stated that one time before the County had an MOU with the Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority (ECWSA) for a proposed development. She said at the time, she was under the impression the MOU would be in place for any development that came to Edgefield County but she later found out it was for that specific proposal. She then asked if water and sewer is already on Murrah Road and if the new MOU would be for a line to go from Sweetwater Road to the proposed development or if it may also be able to be extended and provide sewer to other properties that may need it in that area. Mr. Paradise said the previous MOU was never put into action due to decisions made regarding those proposed developments. Mr. Paradise went on to say this MOU would provide a sewer line to the project property. He went on to explain that it will have the capacity

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to be extended later on if needed. Mr. Paradise also said that John Hare, Administrator at ECWSA, would be able to explain this in more detail if Mrs. Anderson wanted to contact him. Mrs. Anderson also asked what the rate for this line would be for Water and Sewer. Mr. Paradise said Mr. Hare would need to answer that question since the County doesn't set the usage rates.

4. Ginny Hartwig – Mrs. Hartwig said that she and her husband have been attending the Planning Commission Meetings and they believe that Robert and Company have done a fantastic job with the proposed Comprehensive Plan. She also noted that she would like to see the rural feel preserved in the Merriwether area. She then that with controlled growth, the increased tax dollars would be able to provide better services for the citizens of Edgefield County.
5. Annette Holloway – Mrs. Holloway said that she spoke last month on the Juneteenth Project and is here tonight to speak on behalf of the project again. She explained the festival will showcase the talents, achievements and milestones made by African American's in this area, especially those affiliated with the Bettis Academy Area. She concluded her comments by telling Council she appreciates their time and consideration with this proposed project.

Reports

There were no questions nor discussion on the reports.

Consent Agenda

None

Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 18-19-761, "An Ordinance to Amend Rules of Parliamentary Procedure in Section 2-52, Rule 23."

There were no comments regarding this public hearing.

Old Business

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

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

2. Consideration of Approval of Second 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

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Expenses of the Park; (3) the Distribution of Revenues from the Park Within Edgefield County; and (4) 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 second reading of ordinance number 18-19-762 was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of Approval of Third Reading of Ordinance Number 18-19-759, “An Ordinance Amending the County of Edgefield Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan.”

Chairman Cooper asked Mr. Ford if he had any comments for Council regarding this ordinance. Mr. Ford started by showing Council a map and recommending that Council amend the Comprehensive Plan to remove the densities from the map only. He explained the densities would remain in the text. He explained that by removing the densities from the map, it would be easier and more cost effective for Council to change in the future, if needed. He said this would not change any intent in the ordinance.

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

Councilman Biggs asked if lot size would be able to be changed if necessary. Mr. Ford said those changes can be made now or in the future. He also clarified that the lot sizes are just recommendations and not set in stone. He said the Land Management Ordinance will control the lot size but the Comprehensive Plan only recommends lot size. Councilman Campbell said so really this plan looks at density for an entire area, not a specific piece of land. Mr. Ford said that is correct.

Chairman Cooper made a motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-759 to include the change recommended and presented by Mr. Ford, seconded by Councilman Talbert. This entered Council into discussion. Councilman Campbell said that he would like for Chairman Cooper to explain the intent and purpose of this amendment. Chairman Cooper said that he agrees with Mr. Ford in regards to removing the densities from the map to make changes easier in the future. Councilman Campbell said he wanted to be sure this amendment would only affect the map. Chairman Cooper said that is correct. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cooper made a motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-759 to change language on page 7.9 under the Suburban Residential section to remove “Average lot size may vary from 0.5 acre to 2 or 3-acre lots depending on sewer service or requirements for septic tank fields.” and replace it with “Natural conditions, connectivity to utilities and the market are to determine lot sizes.” This would have the section read: “This category indicates single-family residential land uses and lots in a suburban scale subdivision pattern typical of development from the 1950’s to the 1990’s. Streets may be curvilinear to fit topography and limits of the original parcel size and shape. Although the pattern of development can be limiting, streets should provide multiple access and egress to reduce length of utility lines and redundancy for access. Natural conditions, connectivity to utilities and the market are to determine lot sizes. Some areas within this category may have deeper lots to ensure building and septic field site development.” The motion was seconded by Councilman Talbert. This entered

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Council into discussion. Councilman Campbell said that he would like for Chairman Cooper to explain the intent and purpose of this amendment. Chairman Cooper said he believes that a region's natural factors and market will drive lot size. Councilman Biggs asked who the responsible party is for the final judgement call on lot size if development occurs. Councilman Biggs went on to say he believes this leaves the section unclear especially since the parameters are just suggestions. Councilman Campbell asked Mr. Ford how this proposed change might affect Edgefield County. Mr. Ford said no lot size would be determined. He said the intent of the language was to clarify average lot size in the area. He said that it could vary but this was just to show average lot size. Chairman Cooper said that he doesn't believe lot size needs to be suggested in the Comprehensive Plan since it will be determined in the Land Management Ordinance. He also said promoting green space is more important than lot sizes. Councilman Campbell voiced his disappointment with Chairman Cooper saying that this plan has been in the works for a year and this is the first time that Council has heard this proposed amendment from Chairman Cooper. He said he doesn't believe that it is fair to make this proposal with no time to think about it or digest the information. He went on to say that this will remove guidance from the Planning Commission and that could lead to issues for the citizens and the Planning Commission. He explained that for those reasons, he would not be supporting this amendment. Chairman Cooper said that he disagreed with Councilman Campbell, he said he believes this has been brought to Council's attention prior to tonight. Councilman Biggs said that he too disagrees with the proposed amendment. He said this is a guide and that if parameters are removed it is no longer a guide for the Planning Commission or the citizens. He said if Council continues to "tinker" with a plan that was developed by a firm of professionals, they will remove the intended guidelines and structure of the plan. Chairman Cooper said that he agrees this is a guide. He said he wants this guide to assist in growing the economy. He went on to explain, that he believes, without the proposed amendment this plan could lock up hundreds of acres by defining a lot size. Councilman Biggs also voiced his negative views on bringing this proposed amendment up at third reading with no time to research the details and the possible effects it could cause in the plan. Chairman Cooper said he still believes this was brought forward at the last meeting by the citizens. Councilman Campbell stated that he understood the citizens' comments differently and does not believe they were referring to a change as the one proposed. Chairman Cooper agreed to disagree. Motion passed 3-2 with Councilmen Campbell and Biggs voting against.

Chairman Cooper made a motion to amend ordinance number 18-19-759 to change language on page 7.6 under the Estate Residential section to remove "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." and replace it with "Natural conditions, connectivity to utilities and the market are to determine lot sizes." The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. This entered Council into discussion. Councilman Biggs said there is currently a proposed development project named Windsor that he believes this change would affect. He also expressed his aggravation with this amendment being proposed at the last reading rather than the second reading. He said that if this had been proposed earlier, he would have been able to research the possible effects this amendment would have on existing projects as well as future projects. He went on to say that with this proposed amendment and the Windsor Project, the developer will have no guidelines as far as density in the new development. Chairman Cooper stated he believes the nature of the land should determine lot sizes and density for a development. He said

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promoting green space is more important than specific lot sizes. Councilman Campbell asked Mr. Ford what the impact would be on the plan if Council were to accept the proposed change. Mr. Ford said this would be “watering down” the recommendations made by Robert and Company. He explained this removes some of the intent of the information because it starts to change the area size that was used to develop this plan. He went on to recommend Council using the language, “or conditional higher densities where appropriate 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” rather than the wording used in Chairman Cooper’s motion.

Councilwoman Kennion said she would like to make a Friendly Amendment to edit Chairman Cooper’s motion by using the language suggested by Mr. Ford rather than Chairman Cooper’s to have the section 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) or conditional higher densities where appropriate 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. Chairman Cooper seconded the friendly amendment. Motion for the friendly amendment passed unanimously.

Chairman Cooper asked Council if there was any more discussion. Councilman Campbell said that he would like to see an action agenda meeting between County Council, Planning Commission and the firm that will be hired to develop the Land Management Ordinance to discuss the Comprehensive Plan. He said this would ensure the two projects work together and the details of changes that will be made to Chapter 9 can be assigned so that each party knows their role in the project.

Chairman Cooper called for a final vote to approve the main motion as amended. Main motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Approval of Third 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, 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.”

Chairman Cooper asked for a motion to approve third reading of Ordinance Number 18-19-760 so that Council could enter the discussion period. Motion to approve third reading of ordinance number 18-

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19-760 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Biggs. This entered Council into discussion. Chairman Cooper then asked Mr. Paradise to review his memo to Council.

Mr. Paradise then went over his memo found below:

**Memorandum
County of Edgefield**

To: County Council
From: Tommy Paradise, County Administrator
Reference: County Budget 2019-2020
Date: May 24, 2019

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

The Emergency Medical Service is not funded through the General Fund but is funded by a special EMS fund with a dedicated 10.4 mills of taxes. In the proposed budget \$200,000 is recommended for the purchase of a new ambulance. Staff has received bids for this ambulance in the amount of \$168,577. Staff would recommend reducing the EMS budget for automotive equipment to \$170,000. The EMS budget also maintains a fund balance of which \$254,430 has been brought forward to balance this year's EMS budget. The reduction by \$30,000 for automotive equipment will allow the amount forwarded from the fund balance to be reduced to \$224,430.

The proposed General Fund budget for FY 2019-2020 following the May meeting is \$10,363,000. In order to balance the General Fund budget, \$555,777 is required to be transferred from reserves. This results in the current proposed General Fund budget for FY 2019-2020 being funded with 94.7% of revenues anticipated to be received during the fiscal year and 5.3% from the General Fund's fund balance, or reserves. The General Fund's fund balance will have 4.5 months of reserves and any additional expenditures will increase the amount of fund balance to be used.

Council is being requested to partially fund sewer line improvements in the amount of \$162,500 for a development of 181 acres bordering on Five Notch Road and Murrah Road. It is anticipated that a similar request will be made to Council in the coming months for a similar sum. Staff recommends additional funding of \$325,000 to the FY 2019-2020 budget to cover these potential investments. If the additional \$325,000 is added to the budget this would result in \$880,777 being used to balance the General Fund, leaving 4.1 months of reserves.

At the May meeting Council held public hearing on the budget and received several additional budget requests. The requests that Council has not addressed include:

- Edgefield County Mental Health Clinic which requested funding but did not include an amount. Ms. Smith stated that prior to 2010 they had received \$6,0000 annually

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- The Tri-County Public Defender's Office requested an additional \$15,000 to increase their budget to \$60,025. This budget was increased from the FY 2017-18 of \$25,025 to \$30,025 in FY 2018-19 as requested. In the proposed budget Tri-County Public Defender's Office requested an additional \$30,000 of which half is in the proposed budget with results in the Tri-County Public Defender's Office FY 2019-2020 budget being \$45,025.
- Louise Kemp-Settles of GLEAMNS requested funding for GLEAMNS, but did not include an amount.
- Third Division/Peterson Educational Institute requested \$20,000 to \$25,000 to construct restroom facilities on the property owned them and used as recreational facilities

Councilman Campbell said that he had a question for Mr. Paradise regarding the request to partially fund sewer line improvements. He explained that the MOU says the County will need to budget \$165,000 per project for two projects but the agenda and memo say \$162,500 per project for two projects. He said while he isn't against this project, he just wanted to get clarification on the number so the wrong amount isn't approved and the projects under funded. Mr. Paradise said the \$162,500 per project for two projects is correct and the MOU will be corrected.

Councilman Campbell made the motion to include both specific proposals in Mr. Paradise's Memo as presented for the EMS and the MOU with the ECWSA, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cooper asked if there was other discussion from Council regarding the budget. Councilwoman Kennion said that she would like to know when the last time Edgefield County Council appropriated money to Mental Health. Mr. Paradise told her 2010. She then asked how much money was appropriated since 2010. Mr. Paradise said no money has been appropriated since 2010. Councilwoman Kennion went on to say that she sees the need for mental health and believes that some money should be added to the budget for the Mental Health Office in Edgefield County. She also said that Mrs. Smith came to Council on behalf of the Mental Health Office in Edgefield County and requested \$250. Councilman Kennion then made a motion to include \$2,000 for the Mental Health Office in Edgefield County, seconded by Councilman Talbert.

Councilman Campbell had the following comments regarding Mental Health:

We discussed the local Mental Health agency last time. I'll remind Council that they are funded as part of a half million dollar statewide budget. But I want Council to understand the County deals with many other state organizations located right here in Edgefield County.

If you are going to start giving away more money to state agencies, why say Mental Health is the most important? I mean, I can argue that they are important, but I can also argue for many other state agencies that are just as important.

For example: What about the Department of Social Services: Don't our Edgefield County children deserve more help? DSS takes care of many areas of family life, but don't abused children deserve our support? Why would we turn our backs on that mission by not adding in some money?

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And how about the Health Department: Rural health care in small counties is always below what bigger cities and counties can do. Why would we abandon health care for the young, the old, and the affirmed? Aren't we concerned about health care for our citizens? Why do we turn our backs on them by not adding in some money?

Medically indigent: We have those who can't afford to pay for health care, such as those who visit our hospital's emergency room for routine health care needs. Don't they need proper care? Shouldn't we pay more for them than we're doing now to ensure those who truly can't pay, get more health assistance?

What about the alcohol and drug abuse state agencies here: Are we going to say that helping those with additions to drugs and alcohol are less important? Don't they deserve more funding since we all know that these additions fuel domestic abuse, crime sprees, and other societal problems that occur in Edgefield County every week?

And how about the employment and social security office? Don't we want people to work? For those who can't work, don't we want them to receive benefits promptly? Why can't we help that office be more family friendly and give them County funding to make that experience better for our citizens?

What about our County Agent and our Soil and Water conservation services? Are we not an agricultural county? Since our Chairman has a farm, he understands that farming is key to our economy in Edgefield County. Why are we not helping the agencies that help the farmers?

I haven't discussed many other state organizations that work in our county, like Youth Services and Probation and Parole offices, but I believe we could make a reasoned argument why we should support them, too.

Also what about the Edgefield County School District? Who can say the educating of the children isn't the most important thing we can do as a free society? Now, you can say that citizens are already paying taxes to the School District to provide that valuable service, and you'd be absolutely right. But our citizens already pay taxes on everything else I've mentioned. So what's the difference? Why do we want to make winners and losers in the race for County tax money, particularly when we don't have the money to give away more money to those agencies already funded by state government, and in some cases, by the County because state law requires it?

The overriding answer is one we all know in our hearts: We can't fund everything.

Finally, let me point out that we've already approved funding that takes our reserve funding down to 4.1 months. While that's adequate, our Finance Director and Administrator will agree that we're getting into a gray area in terms of cash flow – that's when tax dollars are not coming in and you have to still pay the bills and pay employees – that during those times, they use the reserve funds. Remember that in round numbers, it takes close to a million dollars a month to run this County for our citizens.

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I say we leave the budget as it is for all these state-related and state-funded entities. Councilwoman Kennion said that she would like to ask Councilman Campbell if other state agencies requested money. She went on to say that she aware if any of them made requests but she did hear a request from Mrs. Gail Smith with Mental Health. Councilman Talbert said that he knows there are many needs across the County. He went on to say that Councilwoman Kennion made reference to Mrs. Smith as being the only state funded entity that made a request for money to Council and that is why he is in support of motion Councilwoman Kennion made earlier. Councilman Biggs then said that while he agrees that there are many important needs for funding, he doesn't believe Council can fund all of the requests they've heard. He said Councilwoman Kennion stated she was unaware of requests from other State agencies, but Council heard from Louise Kemp-Settles on behalf of GLEAMNS as well as Bennett Casto with the Public Defender's Office both with agencies funded by the State and both with important jobs to complete. He said he doesn't believe the County can fund every legitimate request. Councilman Campbell also added that the County Administrator, Finance Director and Finance Committee (composed of Chairman Cooper and Vice Chairman, Councilman Talbert) receive many written requests, some from agencies that are funded by the State, and that some of those requests went unfunded. Chairman Cooper said that he appreciated all of the comments and that he feels there are many agencies that need additional funding. Councilman Biggs said that he referred to the May minutes and noted that Mrs. Smith didn't have the numbers for her budget and told Council that she would get that information to them. He went on to say that he never received any information from Mrs. Smith. Chairman Cooper said that Councilwoman Kennion could give him the information at this meeting. Councilwoman Kennion gave Councilman Biggs a paper with some information from Mrs. Smith. Councilman Biggs noted his aggravation of receiving information and being expected to vote on it without having a chance to review it properly.

Chairman Cooper asked for a final vote on the amendment. Motion passed 3-2 with Councilmen Campbell and Biggs voting against.

Councilman Biggs said that he'd read the Economic Development Minutes and there was a good suggestion in there regarding the purchase of property close to the industrial park for \$8,000. He asked if it was something that should be taken up in this budget or next year's budget. Chairman Cooper deferred to Mr. Paradise. Mr. Paradise said this could be funded out of the Industrial Park Fund if the County decided to take this up later in the year. He also noted that Chairman Cooper will be following up on that recommendation.

There was no more discussion regarding the budget. Chairman Cooper asked for a final vote on ordinance number 18-19-760 as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- 1. Consideration of appointment to the Economic Development Committee.
Caroline Turner.....Private Sector Business Owner

Chairman Cooper stated that Council received a talent bank form from Mrs. Turner. He reviewed it briefly.

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Motion to appoint Mrs. Turner to the Economic Development Committee was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Talbert Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of approval for Edgefield County Council to Co-Sponsor “Juneteenth” on June 12 & 13, 2020 and direct the Clerk to Council to reserve the Bettis Park Facilities for this function on these dates.

Mr. Paradise explained that in order to begin planning the event and obtaining sponsors, Ms. Holloway would like to reserve Bettis Park for a Juneteenth Festival for June 12-13, 2020. He said this is a festival held annually in June to commemorate emancipation from slavery. He explained this will allow Edgefield County Council will co-sponsor this event by waiving the rental fees for the facilities. Councilman Biggs stated that while he is in favor of allowing this event and plans to vote in favor of this item of business, he still doesn’t like the word “cosponsor,” he said he would rather it be worded as just simply waiving the fees.

Motion to approve for Edgefield County Council to Co-Sponsor “Juneteenth” on June 12 & 13, 2020 and direct the Clerk to Council to reserve the Bettis Park Facilities for this function on these dates was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of approval of amending the existing MOU between The Edgefield Civic League and Edgefield County.

Mr. Paradise told Council that in January 2016 Edgefield County entered into an agreement with the Edgefield Civic League to operate the County Archives. He went on to say, at the May 2019 Council meeting, Council amended the budget to increase the budget amount from \$14,400 annually to \$16,800 annually. He stated this MOU will authorize the distribution of the additional \$200 per month from the County to the Edgefield Civic League.

Councilman Campbell had the following comments regarding the Civic League MOU:

I think the Civic League does outstanding work for our County. They work hard to bring the past to many citizens and visitors who come here. I personally appreciate their hard work, and I know all of County Council and County Staff does too. So what I’m about to say does not in any way reflect on their dedication and effort.

However, we need to discuss this MOU.

I want to make Council aware of something that might not have registered last month when we discussed this item as part of the budget discussion. This additional \$200 a month – that’s \$2,400 a year – is not buying any more service from the Edgefield Civic League. We are spending \$2,400 more for the same work, same timing, same everything.

So what changed? When the budget process began in February, the Civic League asked for this increase in money, just like dozens of other departments and organizations contained in our budget. The Administrator recommended that their increase be removed from the budget, just as he does for dozens of others. The reason he did that is because the County would be receiving no additional work from them. Keep in mind their work is part-time for the County. I’ll also remind you that the Finance

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Committee, that's Mr. Talbert and Mr. Cooper from Council, both approved funding the Civic League's work at the current level by bringing us a budget that did not have this increase in it.

So why are we even discussing it? In the Civic League, they decided they needed to increase their workers time and add in benefits for that person for Civic League work, not County-government related work. Their decision to increase what they were paying their worker and for the hours they use the employee on their work was their decision – not ours. So they came back to ask for this increase.

County taxpayers' money should not be used to fund other work that is not for the County. Let me repeat that – County taxpayers' money should not be used to fund other work that is not for the County. That goes against our fiduciary responsibility. That's another way of saying that we have an obligation to operate our County in a financially responsible way.

Let me say it this way: We have an important responsibility to our citizens to hold the line on expenses. We've already done the right thing by taking a tax increase off the table. Now, we need to do the right thing again and pay for services we receive and nothing more. We need to vote against this MOU, and leave the Civic League funding right where it is. Remember, this isn't a cut in funding – it is just not giving them an increase in funds.

Chairman Cooper asked Mr. Paradise and Mr. Cooley that if Council were to impose a hospitality tax in the future, would that tax revenue be able to be utilized for something like the Civic League MOU and their services. Mr. Paradise said that staff would need to research this prior to giving an answer.

Motion to approve the amendment of the existing MOU between The Edgefield Civic League and Edgefield County was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed 3-2 with Councilmen Campbell and Biggs voting against.

4. Consideration of approval of Bid Number 05-15-2019-10 – New Type I Ambulance.

Company Name and Address	Bid Amount
First Class Fire Apparatus, LLC 4009 Waterton Court Monroe, NC 28110	\$172,500
Custom Truck Body Works 13787 Whitehouse Road Woodbury, GA 30293	\$168,577
Spartan Fire and Emergency Apparatus, Inc 319 Southport Road Roebuck, SC 29376	\$198,695
FESCO Emergency Sales 7010 Troy Hill Drive Elkridge, MD 21075	\$178,071
Select Custom Apparatus 6100 N. Main Street / PO Box AP Falkland, NC 27827	\$180,631

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Mr. Paradise told Council that staff has reviewed the bids and specifications. He said they are recommending awarding the bid to Custom Truck Body Works for \$168,577. Mr. Paradise also noted that this purchase, if approved, will be made in FY 2019-20 with the \$200,000 Council appropriated for this purchase.

Motion to approve bid number 05-15-2019-10 – New Type I Ambulance to Custom Truck Body Works in the amount of \$168,577 was made by Councilman Biggs, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of approval of Bid Number 05-15-2019 – Multi Purpose Trailer Shed.

Company Name and Address	Bid Amount
Jacobs Carports, Inc PO Box 551 Newberry, SC 29108	\$12,105.00
Guardian Booth LLC 527 NY-303 Orangeburg, New York, 10962	\$70,000.00
Alltrade Services PO Box 3 Gloverville, SC 29828	\$17,193.60
Carolina Carports PO Box 1263 / 187 Cardinal Ridge Trail Dobson, NC 27017	\$7,760.98

Mr. Paradise told Council that staff recommends awarding the contract for the construction of the Multi-Purpose Trailer Shed to the lowest bidder, Carolina Carports in the amount of \$7,760.98. He explained this project is 100 percent funded through a grant from the DHEC Midlands Healthcare Coalition. He also said this project will be used to house the DHEC multi-purpose trailer as well as the generator and gas cans for the trailer.

Motion to approve bid number 05-15-2019 – Multi Purpose Trailer Shed to Carolina Carports in the amount of \$7,760.98 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of approval of Resolution Number 18-19-1020 , “ A Resolution Authorizing the County Council Chairman, on Behalf of Edgefield County Council, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority regarding funding and of a sewer line along Murrah Road to serve a Proposed Development.”

Mr. Paradise said the Strategic Plan adopted by Council identifies a goal of partnering with the public and private sectors to improve and expand existing infrastructure. He said Edgefield County has an opportunity to partner with the Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority (ECWSA) to provide sewer service to a proposed development on property currently owned by the City of North Augusta known as Northview Park. He explained the development by a private party is anticipated to consist of over 445 dwelling units with price points from \$130,000 to over \$300,000. He stated this agreement

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would be a 25/75 percent cost share with the ECWSA and the cost of the improvements will be reimbursed by fees passed on to the developers. Mr. Paradise also noted the maximum cost for Edgefield County has been capped at \$162,500 and will be funded from reserves.

Mr. Paradise said currently the 181 acre property brings in zero tax dollars because it is owned by a government entity. He said with the proposed development, the tax revenue projected at worst case scenario which would mean half of the houses built at the lowest price point, would allow the County to recoup the cost in approximately 5 years. He explained that it would be faster if the development was to flourish.

Motion to approve resolution number 18-19-1020 was made by Chairman Cooper, seconded by Councilman Biggs. This entered Council into discussion.

Councilman Talbert asked Mr. Paradise if John Hare, Administrator of the ECWSA, was in favor of this MOU. Mr. Paradise said that they are in favor of this resolution. He explained this is an opportunity for the ECWSA to expand sewer towards the Merriwether area.

Councilman Biggs asked if this would open up where the sewer line would be placed. Mr. Paradise said the line would come from Murrah Road Extension down to the project property.

Councilman Campbell said that he just wanted to clarify for everyone that rather anyone is for or against the development, the County's venture into a joint partnership with ECWSA is an investment. He explained that if the development doesn't move forward the county doesn't spend any money and if the development moves forward, the county does spend money but then the money is recouped.

Motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Public

1. James Brodie – Mr. Brodie first apologized for his comments at the last two meetings. He explained that he has had a conversation with Mr. Paradise and that he has realized the problem that he was bringing to Council was a problem that they have no authority over. He closed his comments by thanking them for listening at the last two meetings.
2. Linda Anderson – Mrs. Anderson asked if the property that will potentially be developed will have to pay roll back taxes and how that process works. Mr. Paradise said that he would have to verify with the Tax Assessor but that he didn't believe they would be responsible for roll back taxes since it is currently classified as exempt property.
3. Ginny Hartwig – Mrs. Hartwig said the changes made in the comprehensive plan to amend the lot size, in her opinion, does not serve the citizens in Merriwether. She then said that while she agrees mental health is an important issue, she is afraid that Council has opened the door for everyone to come request money and that this could potentially cause a tax increase for the citizens. She closed her comments by telling Council that she believes the increase for the Civic League was a poor decision

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on how to spend tax dollars. She said the work they are doing has not changed and she doesn't believe it is the County's responsibility to foot the bill for the reasons they gave for the increase.

County Administrator's Report

Mr. Paradise started his report by tell Council that staff has received and are reviewing proposals for the Law Enforcement Space Needs Study. He said copies have been furnished to the Sheriff, his staff, and the Magistrates.

Mr. Paradise then told Council the Planning Commission is reviewing the proposal for Land Management Ordinance.

Mr. Paradise also told Council that a building permit application for Dollar Tree to be built next to Burger King has been received and site preparation is underway.

Next, Mr. Paradise said a canopy is being installed behind the Kneece building for the rear door. He said the cost of this is about \$1,600 and is paid for by the maintenance budget for the Kneece building.

Mr. Paradise then told Council the South Carolina Workers Compensation Trust has informed staff that the County's our experience modifier ranking for FY 2019-20 is .89. He said this is below the statewide county average of .96 and Edgefield County is ranked 20 out of 41 counties. He noted that the goal is to get that number as low as possible.

Mr. Paradise moved on and said the internet updates should be completed by the end of June.

Next, he said April Morgan of the Tax Assessor's Office has been promoted from Tax Clerk to Tax Appraiser Apprentice,

Mr. Paradise reported the road crew has hired a new employee and still has two vacant positions and that the Sheriff's Office is also advertising for various open positions.

Mr. Paradise closed his comments by saying Edgefield County is continuing to work with the City of Aiken, Aiken County, and others providing information concerning property owners along the Shaw's Creek Watershed area. He explained this project provides funding to property owners to assist in reducing pollutants to Shaw's Creek.

Chairman Cooper asked Council if they had any questions for Mr. Paradise. Councilman Campbell asked Mr. Paradise if he knew of any reasons why there was only one bid received for the Land Management Ordinance. Mr. Paradise said staff advertised this RFQ on SCBO, SCAC, The American Planners Associate, SC Planners Association, our website and the newspaper. Mr. Paradise said he doesn't know of any specific reason, but he believes it has to do with Edgefield County being an unknown as well as the fact that only 3 companies bid on the Comprehensive Plan and he thinks the two that didn't receive the bid may not have been inclined to bid again. Councilman Campbell asked Mr. Paradise if staff received inquiries about the RFQ. Mr. Paradise said he received a good number of inquiries.

Comments by County Council Chair

Chairman Cooper thanked staffed for their hard work on the budget. He said he is happy to see the Comprehensive Plan project is complete. He said there will be a joint meeting with the Planning Commission, County Council and possibly the ECWSA to start the process of the Land Management Ordinance Project. He said he is looking forward to the rest of this year, which is the beginning of the fiscal year.

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None

Adjourn

Councilman Talbert made the motion to adjourn at 8:13PM, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

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ATTEST

H. Scott Cooper, Chair

Jennifer L. Gilley, Clerk to Council