

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

County Council Chambers

July 6, 2021

6:00 PM

The Edgefield County Council held a Regular Council Meeting at 6:00 PM Tuesday, July 6, 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

Roger LeDuc, Interim County Administrator
Andrew Marine, County Attorney
Taz Potts, Council Clerk and others as per list attached

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Rev. Willie Patten Jr. Republican Grove Baptist Church Edgefield, SC
Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Chairman Talbert to move item number nine under old business to item number two so that the attorney that is here to speak about that subject matter can leave once that item is finished. Motion to amend the agenda to move item number nine under old business to Item number two. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Talbert approve the Agenda as is was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Vice-Chairman Talbert. Motion passes unanimously.
Motion to approve tonight's agenda as amended by Vice-Chairman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passes unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

April 13, 2021- Regular minutes of Council- Motioned by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passes unanimously.
May 4, 2021 Regular Minutes of Council- Motioned by Councilwoman Ireland, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passes unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKERS

None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Agenda Items other than Public Hearing Matters

Edgefield County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Section 2-52, Rule 23 governs public comments. Any citizens may sign up to speak at any regular meeting of the county council on matters pertaining to county services and operations, but not on personnel matters. Interested citizens may sign an agenda list maintained by the clerk to council prior to each regular meeting. Each citizen shall be eligible to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes. Additionally, the period for citizen comments shall be limited to a total of

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30 minutes. All citizens participating in the citizen comment period shall be subject to recognition by the presiding officer and shall address the presiding officer directly. The comment period should not be a debate period between council members and members of the public. Written comments may be submitted to the clerk to council at any time.

****Persons speaking are apart of the official minutes****

Mark Gilliam and David Banks-I know that there are a lot of angst over the possible connection to Williams Rd, we are going to do away with that and not have any connection so that will ease a lot of folks anxiety. Councilman Campbell asked that Mr. Gilliam and Mr. Banks speak at their part on the agenda.

Chairman Cooper stated that he asked them to speak during this section, because they are lot of people

here tonight to speak about the projects of Heritage Place Development. (*A PowerPoint of the Heritage Place Development is being shown*)

Mr. Gilliam asked that he would like to take the commercial piece of it of the property at the bottom left corner, they would like to substitute some more housing in that area. They also ask for flexibility move certain pieces around, with the detention pond which is adjacent to it and those lots to the right of the detention area. There is an access to the adjoining property, that was a concern, they would like to carry those town homes around to that access point. Chairman Cooper clarified two points. There will be no emergency exit onto Williams Rd., it is moved to Hwy. 25 and that you would like for council to consider changing the commercial area to additional residential, when we reach that part of the agenda. Interim Administrator LeDuc stated that there's a lot of concern by the citizens and with Councilwoman Kennion concerning the commercial and entrances to it. They agreed of Council would allow it, they would remove the commercial all together from the development and instead have a little more residential, that way there would not have to be a concern of the residents of any entrance and it would be just a continuation of residential in that area.

Michael Newton-One of things that we always have to remember is that community is made up of growth and heritage. I want to applaud the Council members, our Administrator, our Community as well as the developer for remembering those two things. Williams Rd, has a deep heritage in this community and the foresight and the insight of you folks protecting that is greatly appreciated. (If you are a member of the Williams family or you live on Williams Rd. would you please stand?) These people came out on a holiday weekend and met with Dr. Kenyon last night, that's how important it is to them. We appreciate your response and your stewardship about our community, and the expectation of controlling growth and balancing that with the heritage about our community and I really would like to give kudos to Dr. Kennion and Administrator LeDuc who took out time to meet the needs of the community and we appreciate that. Thank you so much.

Charles Reel- I did not see anything about a salary study until I read it this morning. So this is kind of last minute. As an Elected Official and a Department Head and I have been continuously employed by Edgefield County since 1993. I feel that if Council is going to vote to seek proposals for job classifications and salary studies, it should be performed "countywide." I know that on the agenda they were asking either a county-wide survey or for three specific

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departments. I just feel that it should be countywide. With the increase in sub-divisions and rooftops, it is common sense to know that calls for service by law enforcement and EMS would increase. That roads would need more attention. Generac and other CSRA agencies can offer better pay, and we lose good employees. I lost one 3 years ago to Aiken County, even with the cost of gas calculated, she still made more there. But most do not consider that the daily work has increase in my office, Assessors office, Auditors office, Treasurers Office, Probate, Magistrate, Building and Planning and 911... basically EVERY COUNTY OFFICE. We have long been on the back-burner of salary increases. When I started with the county in February of 1993, we would receive a 3% increase on July 1st. After taxes, that amounted to enough money to purchase one can of soda per day. Right now, I believe we were to receive a 1% increase July 1st. After taxes that comes to about \$1 per day, but insurance costs are increasing, which wipes that 1% out. Salary comparisons have been done in the past with Aiken, McCormick, etc. Now we are losing people to Aiken County, we are losing them to North Augusta, that's a geographical thing. We can't compare to Aiken County, we can't compare to North Augusta, we don't the same tax base as they do. We are different than them, that's why they can pay more. In Saluda County, with less population than Edgefield County, yet the Clerk of Court makes \$8000 per year more than me, and I am not saying give me more money, I want my staff to make more money. I want all of the other clerks and all of the other departments to make more money. So I'm asking you to please give them the opportunity to have their jobs and their salaries compared along with Law Enforcement, EMS and the Road Crew. If you turn over on the back page you are going to see where I found today there was South Carolina Association of Counties did a wage and salary study in 2020, which was 254 pages long. (Council was provided information) Every County in South Carolina, every job in a county position. The first part that you see here, this is for my position Clerk of Court from 25,001-50,000 population, you notice, I am the lowest paid clerk in that population range. You look at the Clerk Court for 25,000 and less you will see, that for Edgefield my salary range was 42-58. Saluda salary range is 59-90, and it is supposed to be based on population. So I really don't understand that. We are way behind the curve, and there is nothing that we can do at one time to change it all. I understand that it takes money to bring up everybody salary, but I feel that if you are going to do a salary study and it is going to cost about 50,000 do it for three department, you might as well go ahead and spend the 25,000 extra and do the whole county and give everybody a chance at making better money, or at least trying to make better money because back in the early 2000's I think when the archer study was done it took us days to fill out those surveys because they wanted to know everything that you did in your job. They came back and said that everyone was underpaid, and it got thrown in the trashcan, so I ask that if you do a salary survey do it for all county employees.

John Pettigrew- You may recall that at the May meeting, I had a couple of questions regarding the sale of the neighborhood center and since that time, I've tried to find some answers to those questions and I have emailed every member of Council on Thursday. I am not opposed to selling the neighborhood center or I call it the old Edgefield School building because that is where I started first grade where many people in Edgefield County. I am not opposed to that if the county has no need for it and no future plans for that property. But I do think that there are

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certain procedures that should be followed and certain items that should be transparent to the public so that the public, us taxpayers are assured that we're getting a fair price for that property. First of all the agendas for April, May, and July have all stated and this is a public agenda, that this property had been advertised for sale for 50,000 dollars, and the agenda goes on to say that there is a person who has offered to pay 50,000. That sounds good and legitimate, but that is not what happened. In my emails to Mr. LeDuc and Ms. Potts, nobody has found any advertisement for 50,0000. Neither of those two individuals were here during the time period that this has been discussed and talked about. They are both new in their positions. But anyway, have any of you seen an advertisement for 50,0000 for this property, because I have not, I could have missed it, but Ms. Potts I know looked real hard in the files and folders and did not find any kind of advertisement for 50,0000 to sell this property, even though on the agenda for three months the public has been told that it was advertised for 50,0000. It was put on govdeals which is an auction website and there is no price disclosed on there. It's a bid, you make bids. I looked on govdeals today and generally, you sell vehicles on there, equipment, etc, I searched 200 miles of 29824, and there were 101 government entities selling vehicles on there within 200 miles. There were 34 government entities selling furniture and furnishings and 26 selling office equipment and supplies, zero selling real property, and real property, real estate/ land. It's not the place you go to sell real property if you wanted to sell it and it's not an advertised price. My second point is the county ordinance section 2-391 real property (B. The following rules shall apply to the purchase or sale of real property. The county shall sell contract to sell etc, only upon approval of County Council. At least one appraisal by a certified appraiser shall be obtained.) At the May meeting, I asked had an appraisal been done on the property, and Mr. LeDuc responded No. In a follow up email he did say that back in 2019 that the county assessor had said that he thought the property was worth 60,000. I don't think that it meets the standards of our ordinance which says at least one appraisal by a certified appraiser shall be obtained. An appraisal has different comparable properties, that's part of an appraisal and it also has to be dated pretty recent to the time you are trying to either sell the property or obtain a loan on the property and again this was done in October 2019 with the County Assessor, unless there has been a new appraisal that I do not know about, and had not been provided. So my bottom line is if you want to sell the property, let's do it the right way. Let's ensure that the taxpayers value is achieved, let's be open, and transparent about it, and let's follow the county ordinance. I hope that you will consider that as you go to third reading, and either table it, or kill it and start over and let's do it right.

Linda Anderson- We are two years in the making and I am happy to see it. Jenny Hartwig had wanted to be here tonight, and you may recall that she was the one who did the point of order for this third reading. Albert, you and I are new to this game, we started in 2007, working on the strategic plan. Roger LeDuc in 2012 you attended and even spoke at the Merriwether meeting, it wasn't just Merriwether, there were 150 people there. The same message has been said for years, The citizens have focused on this for years. We've said there are three divisions in a group. You have ones that want no growth, ones who want all the growth that they can get, and you have those who are the majority who understands that growth has been coming for years. And in that meeting, we expressed, what we thought and have continued to think. Growth is coming, we want it to be planned, and we wanted it to be harmonious. We don't want to be Columbia County, and that is what is happening. We are fast approaching that. Our roads can't handle it,

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our people can't handle it, and it is not what we want. We have people coming here every day and they are looking for what we enjoy, we have the peace and quiet, and the farmland, that is what we are looking for and that's what we want. We are not against growth and we know that some of this density has to be in place, but let us look at the citizens and see what do the citizens really need, not what we want, what we need and what they desire. I did a little survey a few months ago, and I did it again the other day. What I asked was this: the question was asked many months ago, why are you here in Edgefield County, are you a long term resident, or have you recently moved here and for what purpose? I have almost four pages. Not one single person said that they are coming for the hustle and bustle. Every single person said that they are coming for the peace and quiet and they've come from all over. They've come from North Augusta, Grovetown. They have come from the north and the west, and this is what they are looking for. They want the uniqueness, they don't want all this crammed in stuff that we are seeing today. So Thank you for revisiting the comp plan because the comp plan is the important building blocks, it tells county council, it tells the citizens, and it tells developers when they are looking, this is our vision, this is what we want. At this point for the last two years, the developers have been told we want you in here whatever it takes, and that is wrong. That is not how you negotiate. The way you negotiate is just like you did with these gentlemen. The citizens and the developers and the county working together to make this community the best place to live, work and play. That has been our message forever and we hold to that today, and we will continue the comp plan according to what the planning commission have said themselves is flawed, but we are getting back with your vote, we are getting back where we were coming close. Let's work together, let's don't fight each other, the citizens want to have a community where we cannot only grow, but can sustain our young ones. Thank You.

REPORTS

Monthly reports for May 2021
(SEE DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS)
Agenda/Minutes of the following meetings:

CONSENT AGENDA

None

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Consideration of Approval of Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 20-21-791 "An Ordinance to Rezone Certain Previously Zoned General-Agricultural Development District (GD) and Unzoned Property Located at 293 Murrah Road to Planned Development (PD) and to include said Parcel into the existing Windsor Planned Development" (Windsor Place) On Murrah Road, west of Five Notch Road was an abandoned trailer on a lot zoned GD. The developers of Windsor Place would like to incorporate this property into their development as PD. The Planning Commission unanimously voted to approve this zoning change. The driveway for this lot would be off an interior road within the development.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consideration of Approval of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-791, “An Ordinance to Rezone Certain Previously Zoned General-Agricultural Development District (GD) and Unzoned Property Located at 293 Murrah Road to Planned Development (PD) and to include said Parcel into the existing Windsor Planned Development” (Windsor Place) On Murrah Road, west of Five Notch Road is an abandoned trailer on a lot zoned GD. The developers of Windsor Place would like to incorporate this property into their development as PD. The Planning Commission unanimously voted to approve this zoning change. The driveway for this lot would be off an interior road within the development.

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

2. Consideration of Approval of Third Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-785, “An Ordinance Amending the County of Edgefield Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan”.

During the March meeting of County Council, Council passed Resolution Number 20-21-1136. This resolution requested the Planning Commission to reexamine the section of the Comprehensive Plan that were changed at third reading and approval of the current plan in June 2019. The Planning Commission reviewed the request at their March 11th meeting. The Planning Commission recommends revising the Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan to the original wording that was in place prior to the June, 2019 changes. At the June meeting, Council decided to revert back to the original Comprehensive Plan as approved by the Planning Commission. These changes are shown in notes presented by Councilman Campbell in Exhibit 16. The current 20-21-785 ordinance was modified for third reading as per the original Ordinance 18-19-759 which approves the original Comprehensive Plan. Interim Administrator LeDuc stated that at the last meeting, Councilman Campbell brought forward the fact that there had been several changes since 2019 on the Comprehensive Plan, it was tabled at the last meeting and asked that you would allow the public to speak if they wanted to, that gave them an opportunity, so that we could go back to the original plan. In the Ordinance that you read tonight, it talks about Exhibit A, which is the original comprehensive plan that was approved by the Planning Commission and there’s going to be no changes in it, if that’s the way you approve it tonight.

Motioned by Council Campbell, seconded by Chairman Cooper. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Consideration of Approval of Third Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-782, “An Ordinance Authorizing the Negotiation, Execution, and Delivery of an Agreement of Purchase and Sale, and the Conveyance of Certain Properties Between Edgefield County and John, McCracking, his Successors and Assigns.”

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In Spring 2018 Edgefield County completed relocating the offices located in the old Neighborhood Center at 400 Church St. in Edgefield. Council approved advertising the building for sale with an asking price of \$50,000. Mr. McCracking has offered to purchase the building for \$50,000.

LeDuc stated that we heard from Mr. Pettigrew and that he was not here and that a couple of council members were not involved with this from the beginning. But it is my understanding that you did go out on one occasion looking for a buyer for that site, after not getting any offers, it was decided that council decided to look at receiving a minimum price offer. At a council meeting in fall of 2018, the administrator was given authorization to seek someone to buy the site for no less than 50,000, that is when it was placed on govdeals, not sure of how else it was advertised, but he finally got an offer for 50,0000. He then went to the Assessor’s office which has certified appraisers to appraise property to make sure of the proper assessment value was put on it from a tax standpoint. He felt like the expense you would have could be saved by the county by using the assessor’s office. LeDuc stated that this has been a long process, and we could start over again if you want, I do know that there has been some interest both by Pettigrew and others, if that is the case, we need to resolve this tonight if at all possible, so that we can let Mr. McCracking know that we will sell it to him or start back from the beginning. Chairman Cooper asked how long the property has sat there unused. LeDuc stated it became vacant in 2017. Councilwoman Ireland asked, how did our current buyer find out about the property? LeDuc was unsure of how the current buyer found out. Councilwoman stated for the person that wants to purchase it now, why did they not come forward earlier. LeDuc could not answer. Vice-Chairman Talbert stated that we do like to things right, and he asked our County Attorney for his recommendation on this matter. Attorney Marine stated that he read our ordinances and felt that this met our latter of the ordinance, stating that there had been an appraisal, and that it had been listed over time. Marine stated that he has also read Mr. Pettigrews’ letter and there are some valid points, we are within our criteria to approve this. It is basically up to council, if you’re uncomfortable, it does meet the latter of the ordinance. Motioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert, seconded by Chairman Cooper. Motion passes unanimously.

4. Consideration of Approval of Third Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-786 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH AIKEN COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN AIKEN COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH AIKEN COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, 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 Aiken

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County for the delivery of broadband throughout the Aiken Electric territory. The agreement to create a multi-county park will allow for Aiken Electric to receive certain incentives from the state and county. Edgefield County will receive 1% of the Fee in Lieu of Taxes. This is a just a procedural function; it will not involve Edgefield County creating a new industrial park requiring investment on the part of Edgefield County. Motioned by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passes unanimously.

5. Consideration of Approval of Third Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-787

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/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 A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH AIKEN COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, 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 Edgefield County. The park will be located throughout Edgefield County by means of providing broadband throughout the Aiken Electric Cooperative territory. The agreement to create a multi-county park will allow Aiken Electric Cooperative to receive certain incentives from the state and county. Aiken County will receive 1% of the Fee in Lieu of Taxes. This is a just a procedural function; it will not involve Edgefield County creating a new industrial park requiring investment on the part of Aiken County. Motioned by Vice Chairman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Ireland. Motion passes unanimously.

6. Consideration of Approval of Third Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-788

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN EDGEFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE “COUNTY”), AIKEN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE AFFILIATES, AND/OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS (COLLECTIVELY, THE “COMPANY”), PURSUANT TO WHICH THE COUNTY SHALL COVENANT TO ACCEPT CERTAIN NEGOTIATED FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES WITH RESPECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND/OR EXPANSION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY (THE “PROJECT”); (2) THE BENEFITS OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL OR BUSINESS PARK TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMPANY AND THE PROJECT; (3) CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT; AND (4) OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.” This is a multi-million dollar fee in lieu project

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that will bring broadband internet throughout the Aiken Electric territory. The County will receive over a hundred thousand in new revenue once it's completed. Further details will unfold as we move forward with this unique project.

Motioned by Councilwoman Ireland, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passes unanimously.

7. Consideration of Approval of Third Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-789“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 24-174 OF THE EDGEFIELD COUNTY LAND ORDINANCE.” At the April Planning Commission meeting they expressed concerns about drilling numerous wells on small lots especially when septic system are planned. At the May County Council meeting you approved on first reading that the lots would be a minimum 1/2 acre for areas with community water but without community sewer and 1 acre for those without water and sewer. Council expressed some concern about those sizes and asked for further review from the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission reviewed this ordinance and recommend a minimum 1 acre lot for those with water but no sewer and 2 ½ acres for those without sewer and water.

Interim LeDuc stated for clarification that in unzoned pieces of property with water and no sewer it will be 1 acre, and if there is no sewer of no water it's 2 ½ acres minimum lot size. Motioned by Councilwoman Ireland, seconded by Vice Chairman Talbert. Councilwoman asked about a sunset clause. LeDuc explained the following concerning the sunset clause: This week they are going back to the planning commission to talk about the small group meetings, and the results, that will start the process to go back to our original codes, chapters 8, 24,30, and 44 code of ordinances that is essentially the development codes for the County of Edgefield. Those codes will be updated and brought forward, taking what was drafted as the LMO, taking certain sections and using that, but start with the base being those four chapters. In those chapters that will be the acreage that you will have in there, so when we get to that particular section, we will be looking at a little more carefully. Our goal is to present part of changes for these chapters to the planning commission in August, and in September, and hopefully in October there will be a vote that would come before county council, and until we go ahead and the third reading from county council you will have 1 acre and 2½ acres, but it could also change in the next six months as we go forward. There will be another ordinance that you will have later that will talk about the minimum lot sizes in some of the developed or zoned areas. This sunset clause that we will have later this year, can be affirm or modifications can be made to it. Motion passes unanimously.

8. Consideration of Approval of Third Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-790 An Ordinance to Rezone Certain Previously Zoned General-Agricultural Development District (GD) and Unzoned Property Located at Edgefield Road and Williams Road to Planned Development (PD) and approve the Concept Plan for said Property's Development. The developer Crowell and Co. proposes to rezone 77.59 acres as PD for 202 varying sized lots. They propose 25% open space, a small

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1.6 acre commercial lot at Williams and US 25, and the development fronting US 25 will be served with community water and sewer. The developer engaged a traffic engineer to evaluate the entrance at US 25. Interim Administrator LeDuc stated that the PowerPoint that was shown earlier originally had an entrance off of Williams Rd. for emergency, and in the upper left hand corner of the PowerPoint shown, there is a new road or an entrance road for emergency access from Hwy. 25, the reason Council is getting that before you tonight is that we did not receive approval from SCDOT until mid-morning. And the item that is concerning the commercial again the reason that has not changed is due the conversation that we had with the developers this afternoon after hearing from the Williams Family last night and the concerns about potential entrances from Williams Rd. into a commercial site. After hearing the Willems Family and the Council's concerns, this is what PD's are which is a negotiation between council and the developer to get it to meet the needs of the citizens of Edgefield County. LeDuc stated that currently this property is unzoned, by us working with the developers they are working a clustering effect on the housing to move it all towards US 25 leaving in the back area that green area which is open space of about 19 acres. Council may want to consider Conservation easements. Conservation easements are a great tool, which is something that you may want to use in the future. LeDuc stated that the only conservation easement that are located in Edgefield County is one that was put together by Donnie Thompson and Andy Jones that was a 600 acre piece of property that is along the Savannah River, in which they developed a conservation non-profit to do that, Aiken County has the Land Trust and if this is the direction we would like to take, we would have to talk to the Planning Commission, and others and talk to the developers. The question would be how do you move forward, because a conservation district is going to have some requirements as to the size, is there going to be any continuity, the value of the property, does it bring value to the land trust, so there are a number of things that they will be looking for. LeDuc stated that the Heritage Place property will have a walking trail, dog park, and storm water drain. LeDuc stated that a land trust might or might not accept it, but it will take several months to get to that point. If council would like for us to move forward, you may want to have it as one of the conditions that none of the residential development can be done in that open space area, no access along Williams Rd. We would have it in writing, so that no one could say, that we did not have it as part of the conditions. Mr. Banks stated that they spoke with SCDOT about moving the emergency access and it was granted, there also was some changes made to the park location, it was moved to the centralized location as requested by Councilwoman Kennion which will be part of Phase I of the project, there was also areas reserved for the future connection to the north of the plan, which would be a hatched pattern, until the last lot is platted and the reason for that is the same reason that the Williams Family do not want a road tied to the subdivision, it was also discussed about the buffer along highway 25 along with a coop easement for power poles. There will be a 50 foot area that will be maintained as green space, and with the recommendation of staff, it is hoped that the area will remain and be used as vegetation. There will be a six foot fence on the back of the property by the Townhomes. LeDuc stated that if council go along with the suggestion of

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Cromwell and Company would be that you approve the plans and the developer would provide the planning commission, the building inspector or the administrator showing that the preliminary plat show no commercial development but residential development. Chairman Cooper clarified that not having any commercial would be no ingress or egress on Williams Rd. Councilwoman Ireland asked how many more residential lots you think we would get in the area. Banks stated that with a single family homes, there would be an estimate of at least (4) more homes. Councilwoman Kennion asked for clarification that with the greenery, there will be no houses in the back, and also will documentation be provided concerning this matter. Banks stated that the plan is approved, and that it would be up to the staff to follow it.

Councilwoman Ireland stated that this development would not be considered a conservatory, because there isn't one established at this time. Leduc stated that there would be a condition placed on your approval stating that there would be no residential construction in the open space area.

Councilwoman Ireland stated that if a developer asked for approval to build more houses in the future without it being a conservatory they could. LeDuc stated that they would have to go before County Council to do so. Councilwoman Ireland thanked Councilwoman Kennion, Roger LeDuc and the citizens for being so adaptable, for stating your case and for all the hard work and being able to negotiate this project together. Attorney Marine wanted clarification concerning the Ordinances and Exhibits A& B concerning the Planning Commission's recommendations and what is being approved, and amendments will follow.

Motioned to approve with conditions, there will no entrance onto Williams Rd for commercial or residential area and the commercial area will be transferred into a residential area with designs to be shown at a later date probably within the next thirty days and the green space in the back is to be left as green space indefinitely made by Chairman Cooper, seconded by Vice-Chairman Talbert. Motion passes unanimously.

9. Approval of Resolution to hire Burr-Foreman 20-21-1139– Frannie Heizer with Burr-Foreman will be at the council meeting to present a Resolution which will retain her firm. They will develop a bond ordinance to pay for the County's Law Enforcement Center along with a Non-Profit to build the facility. The Resolution will give the County the ability to borrow funds from our reserves until the bond market is favorable.

Administrator LeDuc stated the Law Enforcement Center which has being discussed for over a decade, and the local option sales tax referendum that the county approved, was supposed to have those funds to be used to build a law enforcement center. The law enforcement center would consists of the sheriff's offices, the dispatch and magistrate offices and the jail. LeDuc stated that they are ready to move forward, there will be interviews on Thursday afternoon to look at who should be the architect. Since Frannie Heizer is here tonight, we would like for you to approve this resolution to begin developing a non-profit that would actually be allowing for us to go ahead and pay for the development.

Frannie Heiser stated that the proposed finance for the detention center is going to be in the form of installment purchase revenue bonds. That form of debt is technically issued

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by a non-profit on behalf of the county. The significance of the issue we're being other than the county is that the debt will not count against the county's 8 percent constitutional debt limit. The size of this transaction will exceed your 8 percent constitutional debt limit. This type of debt is being used by several counties and municipalities, but they are using the installment purchase revenue bonds for judicial centers, courthouses, detention centers. Heiser stated that this project fits into a category of projects that we are used to seeing in South Carolina, only cities and counties can legally use this type of debt in South Carolina. Before Act 388 in 2006, the school districts used this form of financing. One of the Acts of 388 was that the door was closed on school districts continuing to use this format. Heiser stated that the non-profit bond that will be created for this project will have to be separate from the county, you do not want the corporation to be identical with the county, because there could be a challenge, it is important that the right people be chosen on the board of this non-profit project. The non-profit is never in control of the project. As far as the paperwork and documentation, the county remains in total control. Twice a year the county will make payments to the non-profit known as a purchase payment. The county will then become an owner of an incremental piece of the property or project. When the bonds are fully paid, the county will be the 100 percent owner of the project. Tonight we are asking you to consider what we call the green light resolution. This will authorize your Interim County Administrator to begin the steps needed for your project and needed for your financing. This will authorize the Interim Administrator to work on sites for the facility, the site selection would come back to council, research needing to be done to begin the procurement for the design professionals, the engaging of firms Burr-Foreman and Compass Municipal Advisors, which will work closely in structuring the transaction so that the first seven years of the debt can be paid from your sales tax, with the anticipation that no millage will be needed. Heiser stated that the first set of actions are to get your project going, and the financing going. The financing will not occur until you have a site and a design. Heiser stated that the final part to the resolution would be the reimbursement language which is required by the internal revenue service, it allows the county to use its own funds and cash on hand to pay for the startup cost to purchase a property. Any money that is advanced by the county will be returned to the county from the bond issue, if there are any expenses that are paid for in the near term you know that all of those funds will be returned to the county. LeDuc stated that they are in the process of looking at two sites currently, one is across from the Federal Prison, the other site is off of Star Rd, they are being analyzed and once there is a consensus on a site, it will be brought back to Council. LeDuc stated that from what Heiser stated earlier, this gives the county the ability to not have to proceed and ask the non-profit to go out for these bonds immediately. If the bond market is not where we would like it to be from an interest rate standpoint, we can go ahead and start borrowing some of our reserve funds, and pay that reserve back once we go ahead and take down that bond. We have options, but this just gets us started, so that we can move forward in the process. We hope that by August or September to return to council with land and the architect. Councilwoman Ireland thanked LeDuc and Heiser for getting this project started.

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Motioned by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Vice-Chairman Talbert. Motion passes unanimously.

10. Approval Safety Award - All of the Edgefield County employees are doing tremendous job to keep safe. In 2011 we were ranked 31st as the safest county in South Carolina with a 1.2 modifier (average county had a 1.0). This year we are number 8 in the State and have a 0.75 modifier with a premium of \$197,745. If we stayed at a 1.2 our cost would have been \$314,791 or a difference of \$117,046. This year we budgeted \$248,850 based on last year's cost giving us \$50,659 in savings over what was budgeted. The Safety Committee met and would like Council's permission to use some of these saving to reward our employees with a Safety Reward. They suggest purchasing a tote bag, with a tumbler, flash light, telephone buddy, cooler and tote bag for approximately \$4,000 plus taxes and shipping. We also would like to hold a luncheon for all county employees this summer to celebrate our success for approximately \$1,500. Council would be invited to the awards luncheon to enjoy lunch with them and to congratulate all the employees. LeDuc expressed a huge gratitude of Thanks to Lee Ann Anderson for heading up the safety committee, and thanks to the all for the last ten years and ensuring that our County Employees remain safe.

Motioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Ireland. Motion passes unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of Approval of First Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-792, "An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 24-32 of the Edgefield County Land Ordinance".

The current minimum lot size for RR and RD zones is 12,000 square feet. We believe the minimum size lot in these zones should be larger the 12,000 S.F. We recommend increasing the size to ½ acre or 21,780 S.F.. If council approves this ordinance on first reading it will be sent to the Planning Commission for their consideration and advise at the July meeting.

LeDuc stated that in the small group meetings especially in Districts 2, 4 and 5 in the zoned areas the property that was being developed was too dense, too many development in some of these areas, recommending to change the lot size to ½ acre. There would be less density, less traffic. Chairman Cooper clarifying that currently areas that are zoned residential, the minimum lot size is 12,000 square foot, and this is changing to be doubled.

Motioned by Councilwoman Ireland, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Councilman Campbell asked that this is for the zone areas, but for the unzoned areas there will not be a minimum. LeDuc stated that currently if they have water and sewer, they do not, this is some of the things that we need to look at and come up with some land management regulations for the county. Councilman Campbell stated that after viewing the Ordinance and once we advertise this from a council point of view for comment, it automatically becomes in effect. Councilwoman Ireland asks does this Ordinance have a sunset clause,

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LeDuc stated this ordinance don't have a sunset clause because it will take several months before it gets approved. Motion passes unanimously.

2. Consideration of approval of Resolution Number 20-21-1138 - "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." Edgefield County owns a convenience center on Hwy 378 near the McCormick County line. Citizens in McCormick County are permitted to use this site in exchange for McCormick County paying one-half the labor costs at the facility. This agreement is renewed each year and has been in effect since July 2002. LeDuc stated that this will allow the two counties to work together for a convenience center.

Motioned by Vice-Chairman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Campbell, Motion passes unanimously.

3. Consideration of Approval of Extending the HVAC Contract with Cullum Services, Inc. - The contract for HVAC maintenance service and repairs with Cullum Services, Inc. expires on June 30, 2021. 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. Staff recommends extending the contract with Cullum Services, Inc. for an additional year, July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. This would be the fourth contract extension with Cullum Services, Inc.

Motioned by Councilwoman Ireland, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passes unanimously.

4. Consideration of Authorization for the County Council Chair to Sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the South Carolina Works Centers.

Edgefield County's participation with the SC Works System needs to be renewed. Federal funds come to the state of South Carolina and then are distributed to consortiums of Counties. The seven counties of Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda together form the Upper Savannah Workforce Development Area. County Councils appoint board members and the board makes funding decisions about physical workforce centers. The MOU agreement does not commit the county to spend any money; it is simply an agreement for organizations inside the centers to share costs. It is the same document which has been reviewed and signed three times previously.

Motioned by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passes unanimously.

5. A Resolution Transferring Authority over the County Archivist from the County Administrator to the County Clerk of Court. In 2001 the Administrator was authorized with the oversight of the County Archives. In 2016 the County hired The Genealogical Society to oversee the daily operation of Archives whose records span from the 1700's to about the 1930's. After several conversations with the Genealogical Society President and the Clerk of Court, Charles Reel we believe it's in the best interest of the County for the

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Archives to be under the responsibility of the Clerk of Court. The Clerk's office is already the administrator of the modern historical record and has access to equipment and supplies that they can share with the Archives. In the future budgets the Clerk will apply for grants to aid both departments and provide staff when necessary.

Motioned by Councilwoman Kennion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Talbert. Councilman Campbell stated that during our last budget session, Ms. Guy submitted her separate budget request, and asked would that still remain or will you represent her for future budgets. Clerk of Court Charles Reel recommended that it remain a separate budget but that he will also be able to make decisions over issues such as supplies, but if other money was needed, he could also use funds from his budget and find grants. Reel stated that instead of having two budgets, there would be three budgets under my umbrella. Campbell asked for future budgets will Ms. Guy continue to request or will it come from the Clerk of Courts request. Reel stated that it will come from the Clerk of Court. Reel stated that he is the Register of Deeds who keeps the register of records, which 90% of the deeds and land records are housed in the Archives. Reel stated that along with his staff, everyone is well versed will all records. When Tonya is not available to come from the Tompkins Library in the afternoons, we have staff, including myself that will be able to assist. Motion passes unanimously.

6. "Donating two Sheriff Patrol cars to Strom Thurmond Automotive Class".

At the June council meeting we discussed the possibility of the County donating two former Sheriff vehicles to the Storm Thurmond Automotive class. In the attached exhibit the school has formally requested two vehicles for the class to use. The Sheriff is suggesting we donate two older vehicles, a 1999 Chevrolet Tahoe and 2004 Ford Crown Vic both which they are no longer using. Due to their age they have little monetary value and we recommend providing these vehicles to the school.

LeDuc stated that since last meeting the Sheriff's Department will be receiving new cars through a leasing program and they are several cars that have some additional value and are ready to be sold. Strom Thurmond has asked the Sheriff's Department permission to have (2) of the older cars that they could work on. The Sheriff is suggesting we donate two older vehicles, a 1999 Chevrolet Tahoe (#153573) and 2004 Ford Crown Vic (#119016)

Motioned by Councilwoman Ireland, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passes unanimously.

7. Approval to extend the Interim Administrator's Employment Agreement. The Employment Agreement for the Interim Administrator ends on July 6, 2021. If council desires to extend his contract for an additional three months he is willing to continue employment with the County as per the revised agreement.

Motioned by Councilwoman Ireland, seconded by Vice-Chairman Talbert. Councilman Campbell asked that per the discussion that the pay rate remains the same with no changes. Campbell stated that some people may come in contact with an Interim Administrator or they may see him here or there or they may even read about him in the paper. This is the third time that Mr. LeDuc has been here, and each time that he has been

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here, he has provided people and not only leadership that we need in our Departments, and trust me if we could hire him, we would twist his arm, but he is not hireable is what he says, only on an Interim basis because he has too many other jobs as administrator in other places, but I wanted the people to know that if you listen to him tonight, how many times did you hear him say ‘this is what we need to do’ that is a way of someone telling you that they are a part of you. And as an Interim Administrator, he is the team, he’s part of the team, he’s not an outsider saying “you need to do this” and there is another part that the five of us see that you would not see. He saves the county more money than what we are paying him. You would be surprised on what he finds to save us money. So there is no reason why you would want to extend this forever if you could, but if 90 days is what he will accept, we will do that. Motion passes unanimously.

8. Approval to seek proposals for a Job Classification and Salary survey.

We are having a difficult time retaining employees at the jail, patrol deputies, motor grader operators, CDL workers and EMS employees. Most of our former employees have left due better pay with other governmental agencies or the private sector. Generac is hiring new employees with no experience at a rate of pay higher than the starting rate for all three of these areas and many other departments in the county. We last had a countywide classification and salary survey study completed by Archer in 2003. In 2011 Kenny Cooks conducted a salary survey for all the Clerks in the County. Since then we have raised salaries randomly with small cost of living increases with most new budget. I am concerned about our retainage of good employees and our having minimum salaries high enough to attract new employees in the future. I would like your approval to obtain proposals from companies to either do a countywide classification and salary survey or a salary review for the Sheriff, EMS and Road Maintenance employees. If we did a full classification and salary survey I would further recommend that every year the HR Director completes a salary review for 1/4 of the county positions to stay on top of any needed changes. The full survey would cost +/- \$75,000 and depending on the depth of the survey for the three departments under \$50,000. LeDuc stated the salary survey is not going to cure the problem, but it will give you a foundation on what we need to do to keep these good employees by setting in motion a plan to incrementally get the employees where they need to be. The salary survey and classification survey will allow you match up the future salary in the future in the hiring of employees.

Motion to approve to seek proposals for a job classification and salary survey made by Vice Chairman Talbert, seconded by Chairman Cooper. Councilman Campbell asked if the motion was for the full salary survey. Chairman Cooper responded that it would be for the full salary survey. LeDuc stated that it will not be a hiring firm, but it is giving us approval to go out and find a firm and bring back to a contract that we should be able to have it back in August or September. Once firm is selected you will then receive a contract and whatever the price is, it will be brought to Council for approval. Chairman Cooper stated that once that’s approved we will discuss the line item that will be used to pay for the survey. Councilman Ireland stated that Mr. Reel had spoken on this before, and the survey was put in the trash, but if we go forward and I am in full support of doing this, I would like for it to be acted upon, and not be put aside, or thrown in the trash. After the

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survey is complete, I will anticipate some changes in some salaries, due to the money that is being used to do this survey. Chairman Cooper stated that in the last three years we have raised salaries in the budget to one thousand dollars per employee, it was chosen to be done as opposed to a percentage, because those at the lower end of the pay scale would get the largest bump and then the next fiscal year, we raised everybody another thousand with the exception of sworn officers in the sheriff's office and they got a two thousand dollar increase, and this year because of COVID we did a percentage, but we need to do this. It's a long-term plan and I do not believe this council has any intention for it to be placed on a shelf. Motion passes unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

All additional comments

Edgefield County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Section 2-52, Rule 23 governs public comments. Any citizens may sign up to speak at any regular meeting of the county council on matters pertaining to county services and operations, but not on personnel matters. Interested citizens may sign an agenda list maintained by the clerk to council prior to each regular meeting. Each citizen shall be eligible to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes. Additionally, the period for citizen comments shall be limited to a total of 30 minutes. All citizens participating in the citizen comment period shall be subject to recognition by the presiding officer and shall address the presiding officer directly. The comment period should not be a debate period between council members and members of the public. Written comments may be submitted to the clerk to council at any time.

Ramona Paldalski- We have just finished celebrating Independence Day in America. Independence from tyranny in any form. Vet here I stand addressing county council to remind them that we are in fact a free people and will continue to fight to stay free to live on our own property in the manner we chose. No LMO!!!!

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, theseparate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator [God] with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to **alter** or to **abolish** it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence,indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Private

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property is one of the cornerstones of a society. Edgefield County Council must cease all attempts to take these away from the citizens and make every effort to safeguard the legal and moral desires of its voters, period!

These principles apply even more so today as governments in the US are in fact usurping powers not granted to them by the citizens at this time, the citizens of Edgefield County.

Since the proposal of the LMO in this county, the citizens have stated clearly that they do NOT want this ordinance since it in fact destroys private property rights. Along with that is the fact that the LMO is not even required by law. Yet, Mr. Dean Campbell stated at the last council meeting that the LMO is here to stay.

No Sir, it is NOT here to stay. You, the county council, have zero right to force this on the citizens of Edgefield County, and I am standing before you tonight, to make it unequivocally clear that we will fight this LMO every step of the way. No more small group meetings to divide us. No more discussion by the planning commission to alter it. IT IS NOT REQUIRED BY LAW. WE, THE CITIZENS AND TAXPAYERS OF THIS COUNTY ARE TELLING YOU TO DISPOSE OF THE LMO IN ALL OF ITS FORMS. We also warn you that the Comp plan is not a way to sneak in any aspects of the LMO. That is not its function. Further, we demand that county council cease its efforts to push development on the county. Yes, you may be discussing lot sizes now, but even that would not have happened except for those citizens who have been attending the meetings and speaking out. No longer will you sit up there and ignore us. We, the citizens, of Edgefield County will not relent. You represent US. You work for US. Without our tax dollars you would not be sitting up there attempting to rule us. Your responsibility is to govern, not Rule. Get rid of the LMO and be careful that you do your utmost to represent us. Listen to what the people tell you and act in favor of the citizens. Say no to the LMO!

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To discuss a legal matter with our County Attorney. Motioned by Chairwoman Ireland, seconded by Chairwoman Kennion to enter into executive session. Motion passes unanimously. Motion by to return from executive session made by Vice Chairman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passes unanimously. Based on the items that were discussed during executive session, it was motioned by Councilwoman Ireland to authorize our Attorney and Administrator to spend up to twenty-five thousand dollars to settle a potential legal issue with an Edgefield County Constituent, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passes unanimously.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO REPORT BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

- LeDuc stated that there has been a lot of developments during the first 6 months of this past year. There were 98 homes that were developed and last year this time there were 94 homes that were developed, so we are a little above what we had last year in single family homes. The single family had a value of over 10 million dollars more than it was this time last year, due to lumber prices going up, which

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reflected in the value of 23.7 million dollars for last year's built homes in the first 6 months and 33.7 million for this year's built homes.

- Solar was a topic of discussion during the small group meetings especially as you get within the rural areas. What we do with the solar farms, what do we do with the batteries, and what do we do with all these things that could hurt the environment. One of the things that the legislative folks did was that they have regulated and asked DHEC to come up with a number of regulations on end of life for the solar farms. They have a year to come with regulations for these issues, then they would back to the legislature body to approve that. As we move forward in making changes to our development regulations in either chapter 24 or 30, we have 7 items for solar farms and we need to look at how do we protect the surrounding areas, finding the right location to put the solar farms so that wildlife can be protected, even if that means adding wildlife corridors or have some fencing, so that wildlife could get to those areas, we need to look at providing special conditions to the solar farms.
- Small group meetings are completed, some of the major concerns were controlled density, no zoning, pd's will be given to the planning commission to look at our existing map with our regulations and making some modifications to fit what the residents within each of these areas are wanting to see happen. Whatever we come up with, we won't be able to satisfy everyone, but Council will be able to modify or make changes as we go along.
- Marketing Plan- It was approved in May by Council to provide incentive zones to Trenton, Edgefield, and Johnston. Councilman Campbell has been working closely with us and EDP to come up with this plan, and we have finally settled on a plan of action. We are going to be hiring and funneling money through EDP to hire a firm called Retail Strategies, which works in the Southeast but also clients other areas of the country, they will develop the marketing plan, market it for us, go to trade shows in other areas, they will come up to boards and other displays that we can use and work the social media marketing aspect of it.
- As we start looking at the American Recovery Plan, that is the 5.3 million dollars and we have already received 2.65 million already, one of the major parts of the component is the business aspect. That is helping out some of the local businesses that are suffering, how do we help some of the citizens in the future, with more businesses or changing on how they can get goods and services, so this marketing plan is going ahead and say that more retail is needed for drug stores or grocery stores in particular areas of the county especially in these incentive zones. Part of the American Recovery plan, we could use that money to pay for this. One of the components that we have put into their proposal that we are signing, says that will work with us to come up with the language and the right type of application so that we can recover these funds fully through the American Recovery Plan. Not only will we have the plan for the first year that we have funded, we might go ahead and fund it for a second year or expand it. For example instead of using \$50,000 of our budget, we can use the Recovery Plan to pay for it.

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- EMS- We have some great employees and directors, We have had a number of Department Heads that have come up with some unique ways of saving money. Garrett Lynn has come up with a couple of things, such as an internet supplier that was \$250 dollars a month versus ATT at \$750 dollars a month, requiring services, which is a savings of \$5000 dollars a year.
They have also got 42 oxygen tanks, each of those we rent and have to pay to refill as necessary at 850 dollars per month, and he found a supplier for \$170 dollars per month, also found the exchange from \$18.13 to \$4.00 which will save \$8,000 a year. They are other Departments that are saving us money as well. So it's a win for everybody within the County, for better service at less price.
- Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority- Council members Talbert and Ireland met with John Hare, and \$5.3 million dollars can be used for water and sewer, broadband, storm drainage. Several projects were discussed, but would like to bring to Council a Master plan for the water lines within the County. They would like to reinforce some of the water lines, where they need to extend it and the water plant. The water plant can provide \$8.85 million gallons per day at this time. But they need to hire a an engineering firm to do the Master Plan which will probably take 10 to 12 months, which will probably cost \$200,000 dollars, but it will help everyone in the County, as we look at future water supply in every area of the County. I would like to bring a resolution or a Memorandum of Understanding that we would provide up to \$100,000 dollars or 50% of that study for looking at a Master Plan.

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

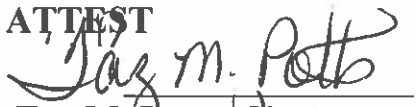
We have just celebrated the 245th year of the Declaration of Independence. I am reminded that those individuals founded our country relied heavily on divine providence in the forming of this country. They were men of virtue and as we are growing, and we experience challenges that come with growth, which are good challenges and we talk about other people property, what they can and can't do with it, while at the same time sometimes saying I don't want to be told what I can and can't do with my property, we need to be thinking and relying on God for wisdom. I am asking each one of us to be faithful and pray for our County, our Government, our leaders and our citizens. It is a team effort and we have to be respectful of one another as we engage in this very important project, we are talking about the next ten years. So I hope you will join me in that very important effort.

2. **ADJOURN**

Motion made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Vice Chairman Talbert.
Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm

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H. Scott Cooper, Chair

ATTEST

**Taz M. Potts, Clerk to
Council**