

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

County Council Chambers

June 1, 2021

6:00 PM

Instrument 2021-4164 Book Volume OR 1917 Page 77

2021-4164  
Filed for Record in  
Edgefield County, SC  
Charles L. Reel, Clerk of Court  
10/17/2021 10:58:10 AM  
Notice fee: \$ 0.00  
Bk OR Vol 1917 Page 77 - 98

The Edgefield County Council held a Regular Council Meeting at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, June 1, 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

**Others present**

- Roger LeDuc, Interim County Administrator
- Dana Waters, Finance Director
- 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 on – Dr. Matthew Clark, Pastor Foothills Christian Assembly, Edgefield  
Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the Agenda as is was made by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Vice-Chairman Talbert. Motion passes unanimously

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**None**

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

LaToya Tillman-Juneteenth- Mrs. Tillman provided and spoke about the Juneteenth festival which will be on June 19<sup>th</sup> 2021 at The Landing on Bogus Hill Rd. in Trenton, SC. Tillman states that there will be over 100 participant vendors, retail vendors, gospel artists, an opera singer and other locals. The information is listed on the website: vision2020and beyond.com and on Facebook. Tickets are also available and pricing. The festival will starts at 8am-10 pm. The public is invited to attend. Mrs. Tillman provided a brief history of Juneteenth: The emancipation proclamation was signed in 1863 for the rebellious states and in Galveston, Texas they got the news that they were freed on January 19<sup>th</sup> in 1865 two years later, and now it is being recognized across the country as Juneteenth. All but three states celebrate Juneteenth which are Hawaii, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Agenda Items other than Public Hearing Matters

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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.

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

**Tonya Guy-** Archivist Edgefield County Archives Thanked Council for their continued support. Guy stated that there were some items that were not mentioned at the last budget hearing, and she wanted Council to consider the items to her budget. Councilwoman Kennion asked the price of certain items and Mrs. Guy explained. Chairman Cooper clarified that Mrs. Guy wanted an additional 1000.00 added to her supply budget.

**Linda Anderson-** Tonight the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading for the Comprehensive Plan revision is under consideration. Also noted on the agenda the Planning Commission recommended revising the Comprehensive Land Use & Transportation Plan to the original wording that was in place prior to the June 2019 change. Please see attached approved minutes to that June 4, 2019 meeting. The change included removing the densities wording from the future land use map which corresponds with the densities in the text. These were proposed to have been the only thing removed. Legends on maps are an important aspect for citizens, planners, developers etc. It is a key used to show what it represents on a map. Please see the attached original Land Use Map with densities which were removed at that same meeting. These are the issues we have been petitioning to have replaced. These changes have proven to have unintended consequences. Case in point one of the issues that you are dealing with tonight regarding lot sizes. Densities were removed on 3 categories-all Residential. Estate Residential-Suburban Density Residential & Village Density Residential. According to Mr. Ford, consultant, suburban residential being the most utilized ford developments. The Planning Commission also stated in their recent meeting that the Comprehensive Plan and the LMO are both flawed and with the Councils May meeting directive to continue working it is unknown where the final result will be. It is the belief of a large portion of the citizen's that the original plan submitted by the Planning Commission to County Council in March 2019 was the closest and had the most support of those commission members and the citizens who actively provided input throughout that lengthy process. We believe that should be a starting point for this current Planning commission and respectively submit a request that it be returned to that original Comprehensive Plan including the densities on the map. Thank you for your consideration.

**REPORTS**

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

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion made by Councilwoman Ireland, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passed unanimously.

While developing the agenda, routine or noncontroversial items are placed on the consent agenda, which is a part of the regular agenda. If any member objects to including an item on the consent agenda, that item shall be moved to the regular agenda as an action item requiring discussion. The remaining consent items shall be adopted in a single vote without discussion.

Consideration of reappointment to ECH Board of Trustees..... William Dalzell

**Consent Agenda Ends Here**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Consideration of Approval of Public Hearing 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”), A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT LIGHT 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.”** Aiken Electric Cooperative is spending up to \$27 million dollars to install broadband throughout their Edgefield County territory. They are seeking a fee in lieu for this work that will bring the County over a hundred thousand in new revenue once it’s completed. The project will begin this summer and be completed in about 30 months.

**Consideration of Approval of Public Hearing 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 TAXATAION; 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 County. The agreement to create a multi-county park will allow for the industry in the park to receive certain incentives from the state and county. 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. The project involves the installation of broadband throughout Aiken County by Aiken Electric Cooperative.

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**Consideration of Approval of Public Hearing 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 with equipment located at various substations and broadband wiring hung throughout the entire Aiken Electric Cooperative (AEC) territory. The agreement to create a multi-county park will allow for the AEC 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.

**Consideration of Approval of Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 20-21-789**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 24-174 OF THE EDGEFIELD COUNTY LAND ORDINANCE.** At the last Planning Commission they expressed great concern about drilling numerous wells on small lots especially when septic system are planned. The original ordinance stated a minimum 1/2 acre lot for areas with community water but no sewer and those lots without community water and sewer would require a minimum 1 acre lot. The Planning Commission recommended minimum 1 acre lots with water but no sewer and 2 1/2 acre lots if there is no water or sewer.

**Consideration of Approval of Public Hearing 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 1.6 acre commercial lot, and the development fronting US 25 will be served with community water and sewer. They are completing a traffic study and will have this information around the time of the June meeting.

**\*\*Persons speaking are part of the official minutes\*\*\***

**Annie Ruth Williams** – I am the widow of Henry Williams Jr. who was born on Williams Rd, 77 years ago before his passing. He spent all of childhood in the same area. After marriage, he wanted to raise his family in the same place where he grew up. We raised all of our children on this road. It has always been a quiet and peaceful place, where the children could walk and play up and down the road from morning to night, not having to worry about getting out of the way of cars or trucks. I know you all don't feel the same way we do about the road, and we don't expect you to because you don't have any connection with it. But I would like for you to think about if

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you lived on this road and how would you feel, I would like for my grandchildren to have these same experiences.

**Shannon Williams Brewer-** I grew up on Williams Rd, and I currently live in the Upstate of South Carolina in Greenville County. No matter whether we were driving from a short distance away or far we would come and we'd hear that clicking of the signal light as soon we were getting ready to go onto Williams Rd. And as my mother mentioned earlier, there is a certain level of peace, a certain level of security, and a certain level of just pride that we have with that family road. It's not just a road; it holds the key to land that's been passed down through centuries. Early 1900's we have several people that are here, several relatives here as well from those descendants. And that is something that doesn't come all the time. We treasure the land, we treasure the hard work, the family commitments that are held within that ground and it's sacred and bringing in additional, I am a real estate agent as well. So for me you know to be able to look at the dichotomy of it, I can see it from both angles, and there are other options. There's land frontage that can be right at Hwy.25 as opposed to dissecting or interfering with the Williams Rd and heritage rd. So those are the things that I ask for the Council and for all attendees to consider with the memories we explore that land, it's not even a matter of what came with this land. There was blood, sweat and tears, there's sacrifice that came with that land, my father Henry Williams, Jr, my late Uncle Joshua Williams, all of the descendants, my late uncles and late aunts. So those are the things that I want to bring forth to this Council so that you can maybe relate or even consider but also to bring to mind as this is brought into Williams Rd., Highway, 25, growth we know is a certain thing if life however you know we're able to keep pecan for the nostalgia, we can also keep the nostalgia, the security and the legacy of Williams Rd. There are so many different things in our history that we need to continue to keep in consideration and as I conclude this road and its inhabitants have earned the solitude and the beauty and the nature that God has given. My children are here as well and my spouse and my sisters. This is something that is an experience. And these are experiences that for the legacy of Williams Rd, as Shannon Williams Brewer and my mother Annie Williams has spoken, access to the new subdivision and any growth in that area should be directly from highway 25, so that it does not fringe upon that direct traffic for us but also to protect that road for where the ancestors brought through many, many centuries. We look at the 1900's as mom said. That is a time that is sacred and we talk about being organic, and this is something that is such an organic gift and we ask that Council considers that and to remain Williams Road as it is. Thank You.

**Rhonda Norwicki-** We have all said that we do not want high density developments and this is our third Pd development. My biggest question that I have here is who pays the taxes on these 20 acres of green space for this Pd. Once it goes to the HOA assuming there's not a membership fee for a country club or something, who pays the taxes. Chairman Cooper provided this answer using Windsor Place as an example: Windsor the number of acres that was there was in timber. And the tax on that timberland was very minimal. When that development is fully executed, the value of that development, I am going to guesstimate because I don't really know the markets pretty fluid right now, development costs are escalating pretty rapidly, but I think that the value of that development will probably be in the range of 35 to 40 million dollars, so when they take 40 percent of that development and put in a green space, the taxpayers that live there, will be

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paying the taxes on that full parcel. And the parcel will generate significantly more tax revenue than when it was in timber.

Norwicki stated that it will bring in more in the big picture, the problem I have is that we're giving the developers yet another benefit. Yet we know about the 18 thousand, 17 thousand dollars the lower development fees that were given, but yet this is another benefit that I don't think that people are aware of, that those green spaces Windsor was 72 acres, tavern hill was 41.26 acres and heritage is going to be 20 acres. That is non- taxed land. I don't get that, but yet we are giving it to them. If you are going to do an emergency exit off of Williams Rd, I'm very concerned if you all consider that option because at a locked emergency exit sounds very scary to me, like who would have the key, fire, ems, I did see that mentioned as a suggestion but a locked emergency exit doesn't sound like a good idea.

**Michael Garrett-** I live on Williams Rd, and I married into the Williams family. After being there, I see the history that is on that Rd. and from the Williams Family and just as the previous speaker said, I think the emergency exit should not come off of Williams Rd., I think they have plenty of Highway 25 space, where if you put it on Highway 25, it doesn't have to be an emergency exit, it can be just an exit. And I think that would be more beneficial to the subdivision as entering the exit in the subdivision. And as most on the residents on Williams Rd., we do not want the emergency exit to come off of Williams Rd., and it is an emergency exit now and it is said that it is going to be locked. Who is going to maintain it, in other words will it always be locked or where sometime in the future it's not locked, and it is used as a regular traffic pattern. So, we would prefer the emergency exit, all the exits, both exits to come off of Highway 25.

**Mattie Williams-** I am married into the Williams Family and I am here just to ask you to think about the changes that you want to bring to Williams Rd. Right now it's very quiet, low-keyed, people can walk without worrying about traffic, ride their bikes without worrying about cars or looking out for their safety. So I am asking you to not use Williams Road for any reason to access that property. We don't know what will happen when this area is developed, and we have never experienced it, so we're kind of afraid of what's to come but we are asking you to please not use Williams Road as exit, but leave it as is. Thank You.

**Sharita Williams-** I am also here to express my concerns for the development that's coming or projected to come just north of Williams Road. I share all the sentiments expressed before me and I just want to add to that. It is hard for me to wrap my head around why such a development would include kind of a secondary road, a road that I grew up on and I still live there, a road that is kind of falling apart, why we would try to attach that to a nice brand new shiny development. It seems like with a new development there is opportunity to create the entrances and the exits to match that development. So therefore, I would suggest and I think that it was said prior that the exit come off of Highway 25. We know that Highway 25, even Bettis Academy, their roads have much more attention to their maintenance and their upkeep, and I also think that those roads would better match the development. And that's what you should give those residents who are deciding to live there. I would also say to the council that you give some thought to the amount homes that are being considered. I was not here at the last meeting, but the layout that I saw; it seemed as if they were really packed in there. I have the privilege to travel outside of Edgefield County and I would like that most people who come to a rural area, they really don't come here to live cramped on top of each other, but they come here to kind of spread out a little bit, so

maybe even scaling back some of those plans might be the way to go. But I just say in closing that we know that we can't stop that, we know that growth happens, but we just ask that their plans come at the expense of our property rights and our rights to maintain the livelihood that we already have. Thank You.

**Mark Gilliam of Crowling Company** representing the developer and the engineer Mr. David Banks came to address some questions since the last council meeting. Mr. Gilliam stated the following: The emergency exit, when they went to the planning commission meeting they stated that they did not want any entrance but you needed to be able to get in there in case you have a fire, in the main entrances is blocked so it's only going to be used if an ambulance needs to come in, and the main entrance is blocked or a fire truck is going to come in, and the main entrance or maybe the police but that's only there for the emergency access to the neighborhood in the case of an emergency. Where the main entrance is blocked. The main entrance is going to be a pretty good size because David is going to talk about the traffic study that we had done, because Dr. Kennion was concerned with traffic and we are going to have a right in and out, left hand right out, left and right out lane, and an entrance lane. So it is going to be a pretty big entrance, the thought of that going to be blocked for any reason so you can't get a fire truck in is pretty minimal anyway. So it's not that we want to have an entrance on Williams Street it's that you need to have some way to get an emergency vehicle in the event that there's a problem in the neighborhood that can't be accessed in another place. Chairman Cooper asked if EMS and all Public Safety will have access to open that gate. LeDuc stated that if they don't, they will have devices to cut the lock. Banks stated that there was a KNOX brand lock that is commonly used for emergency access. There is a code and a code key for that box, which is approximately \$1200.00 just for that access. EMS and Fire would have access to the service. Banks stated that the site as shown, they will have no access to that road, the locks that is backed up to it will be common space between the right away and the rear of the lots that is close to that vicinity. Gilliam mentioned about the fiber cement being on front of the homes, what was proposed instead of doing fiber cement to do some brick and stone on the front of the homes to give them more flare. Councilwoman Kennion asks since the Williams Road constituents have spoken how they do not want any interference or any emergency access on that road, have you thought about going another route, or is there a second exit as far as Bettis Academy. Could Bettis Academy be another road? Councilwoman Kennion stated that looking at the map of Williams Road and where you are talking about building, it will run to Bettis Academy. Gilliam and Banks stated that they do not own any part of Bettis Academy Rd. Councilwoman Kennion asks that after listening to the constituents of Williams Rd, can there still be another consideration, how can we work together to find another road other than Williams Rd. Banks stated that stated that he could talk to D.O.T., but they will not give another entrance. Gilliam stated that they are doing this through the regulations and that it is not something they want to do because it costs money to put that emergency entrance, and we're doing it to meet to the safety guidelines. Councilwoman Ireland stated that they are not hearing anyone say that they are against that development, but we have so many things that come before us and people are so much against that development, they are not boycotting or trying to rise up against the development, and I Thank everyone for being open to the development coming and I think what they are asking, and if it was I that lived on that road too, I would probably would not want the emergency access, and I understand what you are saying that it would be only be used in an emergency, and I would like to echo with Dr.

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Kennion, if there is an alternate could you put the emergency exit off of 25, and has that been explored? You talk about the emergency exit and nobody would go down there and only have law enforcement, ems, and they have the tools to get through if they need too, the bad guys have the tools too. These are things that you probably haven't explored because this is different, so if there is an alternate way I would appreciate the exploration. Vice Chairman Talbert stated that after listening to the residents of Williams Rd, they are not saying anything about the subdivision, they would just like to do away with this traffic that will be coming down their driveway, so if you can do anything to avoid that traffic from coming down that street, I don't have a problem with it, but I do have a problem with what they are talking about, and I think we should listen to the constituents on that end and make them satisfied, because you will be satisfied putting the subdivision in, and maybe we can negotiate with some things. Gilliam and Banks stated that is up to Council, if they want the gate eliminated, then we will eliminate it. Administrator LeDuc stated if Council decides to pass this on second reading, how would you give us the opportunity, where I would sit down with them and see if there is an alternate way to avoid using Williams Rd., and we can bring it back to third reading?

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Consideration of Approval of the Third Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-784, "An Ordinance Providing for the FY 2021-2022 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, Road Maintenance, Tri-County Solicitor, Assistant Solicitor, School Resource Officer #1, School Resource Officer #2, School Resource Officer #3, School Resource Officer #4, School Resource Officer #5, School Resource Officer #6, Event Security, Sheriff Grants, Clerk of Court Grants, Pre Trial Intervention, SRO Grant, and Criminal Domestic Violence"**

The FY 2021-2022 General Operating budget and revenue fund budgets are included for your review. The proposed General Fund budget is \$12,219,667. The County is anticipating the use of \$1,179,703 from the fund balance for general operations in order to balance our expenditures and revenue budgets for the general fund. This budget will still leave 4.2 months of operating expenditures in our reserves. Since the first reading we received additional information from the Federal and State government concerning revenue received for the National Forest property and payments for Medical Indigent. We also have a few minor changes from the Sheriff department. These changes are shown in the Exhibit dated May 24, 2021. Overall the budget will be reduced from its original amount by \$6,314. Another consideration for Council is the possible adjustment of the millage rate which has been at \$0.40/mile for many years. Most governmental jurisdictions use the Federal rate which adjusts periodically with inflation and overall gas prices. Currently that rate is \$0.56/mile. If you want to consider changing the County rate you would need to make that a part of the motion.

#### **(Exhibit I)**

Administrator LeDuc mentioned that we are not going to get as much revenue from the National Forrest parcels that we have within the county, but we are not going to have to pay much for the indigent care. There were some items in the Sheriff's Department that increased, that information was not with the second reading, but in the third reading. LeDuc had a situation that came up where an employee had to use their vehicle to attend a meeting out of the area, and



when asked for reimbursement which is at .42 cent per mile. I would recommend that Council would consider within the approval of raising the mileage rate to the current IRS guidelines rate which is .56 per mile. Motioned by Councilman Campbell, seconded by Chairman Cooper. Councilman Campbell asked from a staff standpoint to change the mileage from .42 to .56 or to change it to the federal IRS guidelines. Councilman Ireland asked how often is this being done with the personal vehicles. LeDuc stated that it has only been a few cases with Sheriff Office due the classes that they are needing to take. Councilman Campbell mentioned that along with the 2 page memo from the Administrator, it does not include the information from the Archives, Councilman Campbell made a motion to amend the budget to reflect the information in this memo which includes the mileage not being a number but the IRS guidelines and includes the information given to us from Archives tonight to add to that memo, seconded by Chairman Cooper. Motion passes unanimously. Motion to approve 3<sup>rd</sup> reading as amended, 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

**(Exhibit II)**

Councilman Campbell stated the following:

**Comprehensive Plan Changes**

Below are all the changes made to the Comprehensive Plan by the Edgefield County Council during first, second, and third readings, in meetings held April 2, 2019, May 7, 2019, and June 4, 2019.

**Recommendation 1:** That County Council on this third reading of a revised Comprehensive Plan at the June 1, 2021, meeting vote to reverse the Comprehensive Plan to the original version of the Plan as given to the County Council by the Planning Commission in February 2021. In other words, reverse all the changes made by County Council during the three readings.

**Recommendation 2:** That County Council delay voting on this change for one month and take up this recommendation at the July 6, 2021, County Council meeting. This delay gives citizens and Council an opportunity to review these proposed final changes thoroughly. This delay does not impact or delay in any way the work ongoing on the Land Management Ordinance (LMO) or small group meetings.

The following 10 changes were made to the Comprehensive Plan by Council during its three readings. The impacts of changing the Comprehensive Plan back to the original document delivered to County Council by the Planning Commission have been reviewed by Roger LeDuc, Doc Hart, John Ford, and Kevin Singletary. All four agree that reversing all changes to the Comprehensive Plan as described above are very small impacts or no impact at all, and all changes will not impact the County's future in a negative way.

Those changes made by County Council are:

- 1) Brought forward from previous comprehensive plan a bullet that says we'd encourage retail development around existing urban areas.

**Impact of changing the wording back to the original wording:** No impact to the Comprehensive Plan or to the County if we revert back to the original language prior to first reading. This kind of development will occur at all places zoning allows it to. If this change is needed, the Planning Commission can take it up and make a specific recommendation.

- 2) Two charts don't reflect multi-family residential in three different zoning areas.

**Impact of changing the wording back to the original wording:** No impact to the Comprehensive Plan or to the County if we revert back to the original language prior to first reading. Multi-family residential topic is included in the Planning Commission's version of the Comprehensive Plan and will be included in the LMO. If this change is needed, the Planning Commission can take it up and make a specific recommendation.

- 3) Adds 5 overlay districts

**Impact of changing the wording back to the original wording:** Removing these 5 new overlay zones has no impact to the Comprehensive Plan or to the County if we revert back to the original language prior to first reading. If this change is needed, the Planning Commission can take it up and make a specific recommendation.

- 4) Renumbering Chapter 9

**Impact of changing the wording back to the original wording:** No impact to the Comprehensive Plan or to the County if we revert back to the original numbering prior to first reading.

- 5) Change to Estate Residential section, page 7.6, by adding the following language:

"However, the minimum lot size in this land use area may vary on the basis of suitable topography and access to utilities. It is assumed that some portions of this area may be developed at 0.5 units per acre (approximately two acres in lot size)."

**Impact of changing the wording back to the original wording:** No impact to the Comprehensive Plan or to the County if we revert back to the original language prior to first reading. If this change is needed, the Planning Commission can take it up and make a specific recommendation.

- 6) Change in Table 7.4 on page 7.11 on the Suburban Density Residential line would read straight across as All Single Family Residential/Light-residential-oriented commercial/Commercial and Industrial.

**Impact of changing the wording back to the original wording:** No impact to the Comprehensive Plan or to the County if we revert back to the original language prior to

first reading. If this change is needed, the Planning Commission can take it up and make a specific recommendation.

- 7) Estate Residential section changed to: This category features very low density single family residential development on large lots. However, the minimum lot size in this land use area may vary on the basis of suitable topography and access to utilities. It is assumed that some portions of this area may be developed at 0.5 units per acre (approximately two acres in lot size) to provide developers with flexibility in creating affordable home sites. Water, power, and communications cables are assumed to be tied to the local dedicated street system with substantive added costs in extending into deep lots. The areas in this land use category are not considered likely to provide adequate densities to support the expansion of extensive public sewer collection systems or wastewater treatment and may require higher costs for other utilities as a trade-off for more land.

**Impact of changing the wording back to the original wording:** No impact to the Comprehensive Plan or to the County if we revert back to the original language prior to first reading. If this change is needed, the Planning Commission can take it up and make a specific recommendation.

- 8) Map amended by removing the densities from the map only.

**Impact of changing the wording back to the original wording:** No impact to the Comprehensive Plan or to the County if we revert back to the original map prior to first reading. If this change is needed, the Planning Commission can take it up and make a specific recommendation.

- 9) Changed 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 section now reads: “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.”

**Impact of changing the wording back to the original wording:** No impact to the Comprehensive Plan or to the County if we revert back to the original language prior to first reading. If this change is needed, the Planning Commission can take it up and make a specific recommendation. Planning Commission already recommends changing this language back to their original language.

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- 10) Change in 7.6 Estate Residential category to: “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.”

**Impact of changing the wording back to the original wording:** No impact to the Comprehensive Plan or to the County if we revert back to the original language prior to first reading. If this change is needed, the Planning Commission can take it up and make a specific recommendation. Planning Commission already recommends changing this language back to their original language.

Council Campbell made a motion to amend tonight’s ordinance to include that we’re changing it back to the first reading from us so that is the thing that we have approve next time but also in my motion I would be saying yes and let’s put it off until the July meeting, seconded by Chairman Cooper. Motion passes unanimously.

3. **Consideration of Approval of Third Reading of Ordinance Number 20-21-783, “An Ordinance Repealing Section 2-314 of the Edgefield County Code of Ordinances”.** In the FY 2020-21 budget, Council approved consolidated the Countywide Recreation budget into the General Fund budget. Staff recently became aware that Section 2-314 requires that the revenues and expenses of the Countywide Recreation be in a special revenue fund. This ordinance will delete this requirement and allow the consolidation within the General Fund.

**(Exhibit III)**

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

4. **Consideration of Approval of Second 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”), A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT LIGHT 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**

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RELATING THERETO.”This is a multi-million dollar fee in lieu project 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.

(Exhibit IV)

Motion made by Vice Chairman Talbert, seconded by Chairman Cooper. Motion passes unanimously.

5. Consideration of Approval of Second 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 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.

((Exhibit V)

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

6. Consideration of Approval of Second 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.

(Exhibit VI)

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Motion made by Councilwoman Kennion, seconded by Councilwoman Ireland. Motion passes unanimously. Administrator LeDuc asked if we could recognize Mr. Gary Stukesbury with Aiken Electric Coop who was here earlier tonight, they are the company that will be putting in broadband throughout. They are hoping that within the next couple of years they will be able to put broadband into every current Aiken Electric Cooperative customer they have in Edgefield County, with 100 megahertz of internet for under 50 dollars a month, it is something that's going to really make a major difference to the citizens and move us forward in the County, They have already put in some of the lines and equipment and what you approve here tonight will allow them the ability from a financial standpoint to complete this project within the next couple of years. We have two council members, the two ladies are on the subcommittee that is working with them and will be giving you more detail as to how we can maybe get into some of those areas that might not even be in their territory, if it's a Dominion customer and they don't have broadband in their area, how can we go ahead and work with Aiken Electric Coop to get them broadband in those areas. LeDuc stated that we would like to make sure that everyone in Edgefield County has that ability to have broadband at a reasonable price, and this allows us to go forward.

**7. Consideration of Approval of Second 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 systems 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 1/2 acres for those without sewer and water.

**(Exhibit VII)**

Administrator Leduc stated that since the last meeting they had to develop an ordinance because it was important to get something in place and not wait for the LMO. We have come up with some numbers 1/2 and 1 acre. It went back to the planning commission we wanted their input. they went from 1/2 acre to 1 acre so if property has water but no sewer, they would have to have a minimum of one acre to develop. If it has no sewer or water they are recommending 2 1/2 acres. It will depend on in the future when we develop an IMO which hopefully will be later this summer. When it will come back to the planning ccommission, which could change. But recommending 1 acre with water and 2 1/2 acres with no water no sewer for those kind of developments.

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

**8. Consideration of Approval of Second 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 said Property's Development.** The developer Crowell and Co. proposes to rezone 77.59 acres as PD for 202

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varying sized lots. They propose 25% open space, a small 1.6 acre commercial lot, and the development fronting US 25 will be served with community water and sewer. The developer has engaged a traffic engineer to evaluate the entrance at US 25.

**(Exhibit VIII)**

Administrator LeDuc stated that at the last meeting, council had several question concerning traffic going in and out to their development. We asked them to develop a traffic study to make sure that they had the proper deceleration and storage lanes, So if you are heading Southbound or heading towards north Augusta and you wanted to turn into this development off at 25, you would have a storage area of probably about seven to ten car lengths to stack up to make that left hand turn. The throat or the opening on 25 opposite Academy Street, it's about 150 feet wide right now, so there is plenty of room to maneuver through, it's just if traffic is going in the northbound direction is too heavy, it allows people then to stack up and get out of the travel lanes on 25. Received the study this afternoon and this will have to eventually go to SCDOT because that is their property that US 25 as to the improvements, but that is their recommendation is to have that left hand turn lane also going out of the development, they are recommending as you are entering onto 25 there would be a right hand turn land and a left hand turn lane, so we do not want to have traffic stacking up inside the development, so if you want to northbound or southbound there will be exclusive lanes leaving the development. Leduc stated that it was talked about how we can avoid using Williams Road as an emergency, he stated that he will be talking to Mr. Banks about that to come up with another alternative, the only other alternative if you look at the map of their development is going to be something coming off of US25 and there maybe some restrictions from SCDOT as to how many driveways you could have and how far of a distance they have to be apart from one another as you look at the entrance going into the development. Mr. Gilliam (Crowell and Company) stated that the last time they were here, Council was concerned with the access to the adjacent property and what they would like to do there, this is a property that is not theirs, but it is the property that connects to Bettis Academy. They would like to reserve a lot for some time to see if it could be connected up to some point in the future, if it can be or it is not desired to be converted to just a neighborhood home.

Councilman Campbell asked about the green space in this development is it 25% of 77 acres, Gilliam stated that it is over 25%. Banks stated that we always can cut that number back due to the design. Councilman Campbell asked if the 25% includes the storm water detention areas considered as green space. Banks stated that it is considered as common space; Councilman Campbell asked would the playground be part of the green space. Councilman Campbell stated that the smallest lots are the closest to Hwy 25 and the bigger lots are towards the middle and the back of Hwy. 25 is there a reason for that. Banks stated that typically people that buy smaller town home lots aren't looking for the quietness because there will be some noise coming from highway 25 even though there's a 50 foot noise buffer between Hwy. 25 and the property, younger people don't care about the quietness as if they were staying next door to somebody because they are sharing walls, so they put the resident homes further back in the development for the quieter neighborhood. Councilman Campbell stated that if Council were to vote no on this same development could it be done right here as proposed maybe without the commercial as we see it today. Banks stated without the open space it would still be done. This layout was done based on your ordinance, we did not have the dog park or walking trails.

Leduc stated that the 77 acres of land that they have, if we did not have a moratorium, and it was over and this plan was presented, it would not have to come to council, the planning commission would review it and they could still build 202 homes within that space. What they have done is taken the 202 lots and moved them towards the front which then gives you a clustering of these homes and gives you open space that could be used by the residents of that area, and even the residents of Williams Rd, with the walking trails and the dog park, and the other areas that are within that development, but it's an amenity that we probably would not have if it was built under the current ordinances that we have. LeDuc stated that one thing that we don't know what is going to happen is once that LMO is rewritten that the regulations for this area or other areas could change, and maybe they would not be able to build the 202 homes.

This is a trade off for them to be able to know that we're going to be able to build it in this fashion under the PD, but they could go ahead and build it the same density under our current regulations. Councilwoman Kennion wants to know why the playground would be at the front of the development and the walking trail and dog park at the back. Banks stated that he used the playground in doing the layout the area across the street from the playground is also common space, and it's only used on the map to differentiate the townhomes and the single family lots. Banks talked about the traffic issue that Councilwoman Kennion was concerned about. Banks stated that there was a traffic report done about the delays of going in and out of the development, there is a 19 second delay per the report given.

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

Before entering into new business, Chairman Cooper recognized Mr. Stukesbury and asked that he come and provide an update about broadband. Mr. Stukesbury stated the following: We have been working on Project Light for 2 years and the board voted early fall and because of the FCC auctions we could not discuss what we were doing. The good news is that by tomorrow or at the end of the week, we will light our first internet customer out towards the tri-cities of our subs of our service territories near Wagner Salley and Perry. As I was coming to Edgefield this afternoon our backbone which is a 288 stream fiber optic network for the Aiken Coops use is on the Dominion Poles as we come through the town of Edgefield. We are in behind Pendarvis Chevorlet, and that is the way that we are getting to our Edgefield Office. The 288 fiber strand is the largest single cable made. So we are going to build this system very robust just like we do our electric system. The better question is when we will be in Edgefield County. Our goal objective us the first quarter of next year. We will be in our Edgefield substation putting in the control house and the electronics, and then we will come out of the distribution from there. We are days away from lighting the Johnston substation in Saluda. We are coming from South Carolina pet foods where we are connecting with Carolina Connect, we coming to Johnston this summer and we will be at the Mason substation which is north of Edgefield. We have 270 miles of the 288 fiber backbone, there will be 7 rings around our service territory, so if it gets broke, we can reroute the traffic, so that people will not be without internet service. We will treat this like we do our electric service. When your internet doesn't work, someone will be called, it will be fixed. Our call center is in Lexington, so when you call it will not be a 50-minute on hold, somebody will answer. Our partner is Carolina Connect. They currently serve Newberry Coop and Mid-Carolina Coop. Aiken is now the third Coop in that consortium and they do all the back



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office stuff, such as the phone, the technical, the installation. Aiken Coop will run the fibers to our members, to your home, and from there Carolina Connect technician will show up, there will be a free router, for \$49.95 you can get 100 by 100, \$89.00 if you want gigabyte of service.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Consideration of Approval of First 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. Administrator Leduc stated that when removing this old abandoned trailer that was under the PD status, they would like to put a house on it, but the house will face the interior of the development, so there will not be another driveway, they would eliminate the driveway that is currently on Murrah Rd.

**(Exhibit IX)**

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

**2. Consideration of Approval to move forward with the Law Enforcement Center.**

Over a year ago Moseley Architect presented Council with a needs study for the County jail and sheriff's office. Since than both Sheriffs from McCormick and Saluda Counties stated they were not interested in participating in a joint facility. To move this project forward we would like council's approval to engage Burr – Foremen (bond attorney and LOST) to help develop the funding mechanism for the Law Enforcement Center. They would develop a Resolution retaining them and Compass Municipal Advisors to develop the funding for this project. FrannieHeizer from Burr-Foreman would be at the July meeting to answer any questions concerning the development of a non-profit and the necessary bonding before approving the resolution. Additionally we like to engage Moseley Architect to help with the evaluation of potential land sites for the new center, estimated at approximately \$4,000 per site. We would be evaluating 2-3 sites. Finally we desire council's permission to develop an RFP and to interview firms to design the facility. Once a firm is chosen we would bring our recommendation along with a contractual agreement for council's approval, and then they would hired to start the work. The designing of the Center would take about a year, then you would have to go out for bids, and it will be sometime next year, before we could even break ground, that's assuming that we hire that architect, at the next meeting in August.

Motioned by Chairman Cooper to give permission for the Administrator to put together the bond package and the Burr- Foreman presentation for Council for the July meeting, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Councilwoman Ireland asks who would put the non-profit together. LeDuc stated that they would be asking Burr-Foreman for assistance. Ireland asked would we need to provide them with suggestions. Leduc stated that they would ask for three proposals and Council will then choose. Ireland asked before doing the evaluation of the properties, make sure

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that they are available. LeDuc stated that before beginning Phase 1 we would make sure that the sites are available at a reasonable price. Motion passes unanimously. Chairman made a motion for the Architect committee to reconvene and to select an architect to bring back a contractual agreement to Council. Seconded by Vice Chairman Talbert. Motion passes unanimously. Chairman Cooper made a motion to give the Administrator permission to hire Mosley Architects to do a land feasibility study on 2-3 potential sites. Seconded by Vice Chairman Talbert. Motion passes unanimously.

**3. Consideration of Approval of the Sewer Easement for Edgefield Water and Sewer Authority (ECWSA).** The ECWSA needs an easement for a sewer line from Jeter to Penn along the railroad easement on County property shown in the attached exhibit. The line would not interfere with any operation or facility; it would be on the railroad side of the employee and sheriff's parking lot.

**(Exhibit X)**

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

**4. Approval of Janitorial Bids.** We recently solicited bids for janitorial services for all the county buildings including the Health Center and DSS. For a decade or more we have received very good service from Southern National but it's been five years since we rebid these services. In 2011 we reduced our service at most of the buildings from five days a week to 2-3 days and allowed them to provide these services in many of the facilities during the day. This reduced the price by several tens of thousands of dollars at the time.

The current bid proposal required all new vendors to be at a pre-bid walk through of all the facilities and to send us the bid in a sealed envelope. The bid proposal would then be evaluated based on four equal areas; price, past experience, completeness of the proposal and references. We had four bidders, however one didn't attend the mandatory walk through and one emailed the bid. Both of these were disqualified. The two accepted bids were both completed properly with Southern National priced at \$69,970 and Freemans at \$67,550 with cleaning the Sweet Water Center at \$125 for Southern and \$175 for Freeman. As for past experience, several officials in the County sent us their recommendation to stay with Southern National; we have no historic experience with Freeman. We checked references for Freeman and found no negative issues. However all the references were for individual's jobs and not for recurring contracted services. Our current contract with Southern National was for \$63,850 last year. Their new pricing would be a 9.6% increase if you decide to stay with this company. If all things were equal we would stay with Southern National however Freeman's price is approximately 3.6% less then Southern National. The contract starts July 1 of this year.

**(Exhibit XI)**

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

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**5. Approval of Concept Plan for Edgefield County Industrial Park Signs.**

The Economic Development Partnership (EDP) is asking for council’s approval of the proposed sign at the county’s industrial park. The renderings and cost estimate are shown in **Exhibit**. In the 2021/2022 budget we have set aside up to \$500,000 for improvements in the industrial park for signage and the roadway extension. We believe most of the \$800,000 roadway cost will come from other sources and if council desires we should have enough set aside funds for the signs. EDP will need a funding commitment from the County in the range of +/- \$225,000 for the signs.

Mr. Will Williams stated that he has provided some signage concepts for the Industrial Park, in reference to the new company Generac. Williams stated that these signs will fit county code and we have the opportunity to get a site enhancement grant for these signs through the chamber of commerce that will be submitted, and we will work with the County to get these sign completed. There is a request for the county to fund some of the cost, and the partnership will also put some of our state allocated dollars also for the purchasing of these signs. There will be a sign located on Hwy. 25, and another sign as you turn on Generac Way.

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

**6. Edgefield County July meeting date.** Currently July 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday and most offices are closed on Monday July 5<sup>th</sup>. Some members may be on vacation that week and this is to confirm that Tuesday July 6<sup>th</sup> is the best date for Council to hold their monthly meeting.

Chairman Cooper stated that the meeting date for July will remain. Chairman Cooper made a motion to move our regular scheduled meeting for August 3, 2021 to August 4, 2021 seconded by Vice Chairman Talbert. 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.

***\*\*All persons speaking is part of the official minutes\*\****

**Marion Bland-** I am here to ask council support with the Johnson Avery Bland cemetery restoration and preservation project. This family cemetery is located at the southeast corner of Bland Baptist and Weaver Roads. The first plan to reside in Edgefield County was Robert who came in from Virginia in the 1770’s. Robert and his son John fought in South Carolina during the revolutionary war and John was killed at the Clouds Creek massacre in 1781 and is buried in the mass grave in Leesville, the Blands owned quite a bit of land between Edgefield and Johnston and lived on the family plantation called woodlands they were very active in the community including Mount Tabor Baptist Church, then later Johnson Baptist Church. The Bland Family donated the land for the Edgefield County poor house to be built on in 1831. Johnson Bland was

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the eldest of six children. According to the Edgefield Advertiser on May 25, 1872 Johnson was a substantial farmer and early booster of Johnston. He was a Lieutenant in the civil war and fought alongside his famous brother Lieutenant colonel Albert Bland who was killed at Chickamauga and is buried here. Johnson donated lumber from his sawmill to the local Irish Priest Father Timothy Birmingham so that the pastor could build his church. He was a loving father to his 12 children and as such the great great grandfather to many families in Edgefield County today including not just the Blands but also the Mobley's, Shumpert's, Sawyers, Turners. The efforts to restore Johnson's Bland Cemetery are being completed in project phases. So far we have cleared the debris and we've removed the old fence. We are awaiting delivery of new fence posts and then we can begin installing a new fence. Our goal is to have these tasks completed by the end of August and all the labor is being provided by volunteers. We are here asking for assistance with material costs. The Edgefield Preservation Association is helping with this restoration and preservation effort they have provided their expertise research assistance, volunteer labor and donation. They are our sponsors. We have been networking throughout the community generating interest in family cemetery history and our efforts have led to the donation of a beautiful old hundred-year old wrought iron fence from Pastor Joshua McClendon of Phillipi Baptist Church and we also received generous financial donations from Edgefield residents. Many have stopped by while we out there clearing the foliage and have asked about the cemetery. Whose family is it, how long has it been there, who am I. They are definitely interested in this activity. We have received a grant and we are now respectfully requesting matching funds from this County Council. The financial support that the Edgefield County Council provides will help restore and preserve this important part of our local history and serve as an example of what can be accomplished when a community comes together. (Bland provided Council with before and after pictures of the cemetery project.) Thank you for hearing my request for matching funds.

Councilman Campbell stated that this obviously is not an active cemetery in any way. Bland stated that Johnson himself died in 1884, there are 17 family members that are buried there which are 7 adults and 10 children. Chairman Cooper asked who provided the grant, Bland stated that the grant was provided by the Preservation Association of \$500 dollars. Bland stated that in addition to that grant they have raised an additional \$500 dollars from the community.

**Maria Moore-** My husband and I owned several pieces of property in Edgefield probably 30 years or so. I just wanted to come because this was my first time coming to say that I am not for the land management ordinance, so I don't know if this is the right time to say it, I've never been here, this is my first time and I really don't know who my representative is. Chairman Cooper asked if she resided off of rolling hills. Moore stated that it's off of Jacob McKie Rd, and Rolling Hills Rd. circles around. Moore stated that the one thing that she is opposed to is ordinances because rights will be taken away eventually, I would like to get involved, as I was listening to the Williams Family, I wanted to cry because I don't have that kind of legacy and I can see why they are fighting for their history, their legacy, and there's a lot of other families that have legacies. Edgefield is a very old town and I think that we have to fight for our rights, and I think when we go down doing ordinances, it's kind of scary because of all the things that are going on in this country, I think that the only thing left is our right to vote and our property. I moved to Edgefield with my husband because I loved it. I've live in Aiken County, Richmond County and

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I think Edgefield County is the most beautiful county of all the places I've ever lived. I have traveled my whole life, but when I listen to the Williams family talk about their history on that one road and that little fence that they want to put, I thought about them fighting for their legacy, and so we have to fight for our legacy even if we're transplants.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

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

- Mr. Leduc shared with Council some maps that Mr. Stukesbury provided information concerning the areas where broadband will be provided.
- The Library Board would like to consider moving the library from downtown Edgefield to Buncombe St. It would cost about 400,000 to purchase that property and to get it up fitted, they are hoping that some of the American Recovery funds that were passed by Congress could be used for that.
- The Sheriff has asked if he could donate a couple of their old cars to Strom Thurmond High School so that the automotive shop could have some cars that they could work on.
- Our Safety Committee organized by Lee Ann Anderson, faithfully meets every month to work on ways that we could reduce our workers compensation.

We are now 8th in the state and ranked at .75 in which we have saved over 51,000.00 this year with the help of the 100 plus employees within the county. I am asking Council for some money that we could go ahead and use to reward them and say thank you for a job well done. I would like Council to authorize up to 5,000 dollars for the safety committee to come up with some kind of reward that we can give them to congratulate them for a job well done.

Chairman Cooper give the Administrator up to 5,000 dollars to recognize our team which has done an extending job on safety and reducing our workman's compensation. It will added to next month's agenda to discuss.

**COMMENTS BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIR**

- Small Groups meetings have been going great. We still have to finish executing in a few districts.
- Suggested to have a special called meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to go over the resumes for Administrator.
- I hope that everyone has a great evening and thanks for your participation, and if you are watching on line and you have signed up to participate the small group meetings, you have a very limited time to sign up. We would encourage you to do so in the next 24 to 48 hours.

**ADJOURN**

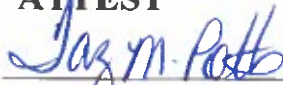
Motioned by Councilwoman Ireland, seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

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H. Scott Cooper, Chair

**ATTEST**

  
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Taz M. Potts, Clerk to  
Council