

AGENDA
EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
County Council Chambers
September 5, 2023
6:00 PM

Council's meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Council's Rules and Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, in the event Council's Rules do not cover the procedural issue at hand. This agenda may be modified prior to or during the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Invocation – Minister Aretha Eubanks, Chalk Hill Baptist Church, Wagener, SC
Pledge of Allegiance

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

August 8, 2023, Regular Monthly Meeting

IV. 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 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.

V. REPORTS

Monthly Reports 2023

Agenda/Minutes of the following meetings

July 13, 2023, Planning Commission Work Session Minutes

July 13, 2023, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

(SEE DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS)

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Ordinance 21-23-799, **To modify Sections III, IV, XIII, XIV, XV, and XVIII of the Fire Services Contract.**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consideration of Approval of the Second Reading of Ordinance 21-23-799 to modify Sections III, IV, XIII, XIV, XV, and XVIII of the Fire Services Contract.

A majority of the Fire Board supports County Council revising the Fire Services Contract to change the voting structure, align Fire Board member terms with County Ordinance, and change the way Merriwether's vehicle taxes are used to supplement the other six departments.

Exhibit I

AGENDA
EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
County Council Chambers
September 5, 2023
6:00 PM

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of Approval of Resolution 21-23-1168, recognizing Dr. Myrtis Walker Brightharp for her long and distinguished career in education.
Exhibit III

2. Consideration of Approval of the Tax Millage Rate for FY 2023-2024.
County Auditor Bill Gilchrist has been working with Finance Director Taz Potts, Treasurer Jo Knight, Tax Assessor Gerri Coleman, and Administrator David Caddell to determine the County's millage rate for the tax bills to be mailed in the near future. Based on the assessed values of homes, businesses, vehicles, etc., Edgefield County saw an increase in the value of a mill from \$94,000 to \$100,750. There is proposed reallocation of the 4.36 debt service millage to 2.06 mills with 1 mill being added to the fire millage and 1.3 mills added to the EMS millage. This change involves moving millage around but will not involve a tax increase.
Exhibit IV

2. Consideration of Approval to allocate \$11,666 to the Town of Edgefield from American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds under our Town Grant program approved by Council in 2021.
County Council allocated \$500,000 of ARP funds to be split three ways between Johnston, Edgefield, and Trenton (\$166,666 each). Edgefield was previously approved for \$155,000, which leaves the remaining \$11,666 available.
Exhibit V

3. Consideration of Approval to allocate \$16,666 to the Town of Johnston from American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds under our Town Grant program approved by Council in 2021.
County Council allocated \$500,000 of ARP funds to be split three ways between Johnston, Edgefield, and Trenton (\$166,666 each). Johnston was previously approved for \$150,000, which leaves the remaining \$16,666 available.
Exhibit VI

4. Consideration of Approval to utilize the federal General Services Administration (GSA) per diem standard rate for meals and mileage for travel expenses.
The General Services Administration calculates these rates annually considering inflation. This change would ensure that expenses are adequately covered for work-related travel.
Exhibit VII

5. Consideration of Approval to permit the County Administrator or the County Attorney to negotiate a contract to purchase two parcels (174-00-00-088-000 & 174-00-00-077-000) totaling 15.59 acres for the preset rate of \$15,000 based on the Industrial Park Development agreement amended in 2019.

AGENDA
EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
County Council Chambers
September 5, 2023
6:00 PM

The total sale price is \$232,350 plus closing costs. We propose to pay for this property with ARP funds. It is included in Appendix A of the Budget memo, and Council has approved that Appendix.

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE 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 no 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.

X. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

XI. REPORT BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

XII. COMMENTS BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIR

XIII. ADJOURN