

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
October 3, 2023
6:00 PM
County Council Chambers

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P.M. Tuesday, October 3, 2023, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield, SC. Notice of this meeting was provided to The Edgefield Advertiser and others as requested.

Members Present

Dean Campbell, Chairman
Albert Talbert, Vice Chairman
Tiffani Ireland, Councilwoman
Dr. Jackie Kennion, Councilwoman
Jerry Moody, Councilman

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2023-4237
Filed for Record in
Edgefield County, SC
Charles L. Reel, Clerk of Court
11/13/2023 03:42:57 PM
CTY MISCELL \$ 0.00
Bk OR Vol 2085 Page 267 - 275

Others Present

David Caddell, Administrator
Taz Potts, County Finance Director
Aretha Eubanks, Clerk to Council
Hart Doc Clark, Building and Planning Director
Andrew Marine, County Attorney

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The invocation was given by Reverend Brian Ayers, Sweetwater Baptist Church.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Campbell asked for approval of the agenda as presented. Councilman Talbert made the motion, and Councilwoman Ireland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Campbell requested approval of the regular meeting minutes on September 5, 2023. Councilman Moody made the motion, and Councilwoman Kennion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Special Recognition

Chairman Campbell: For this special recognition, I will call on Administrator Caddell.

Administrator Caddell: Our Employee of the First Quarter is Hart Clark, Assistant Administrator. A co-worker sent in a recognition letter of his works, which sums up the type of person he is and how many of us feel about him.

Chairman Campbell: Assistant Administrator Clark, we do appreciate all that you do.

Comments from the Public

Chairman Campbell opened this public comment period. Hearing no public comments, Chairman Campbell closed this public comment period.

Reports

Chairman Campbell asked the Council if they had any questions or comments on the reports. There were none.

Old Business

1. Consideration of approval of the second reading of ordinance 21-23-780, authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of as valorem taxes agreement by and between Edgefield County, South Carolina, and Project Fastball to provide for payment of a Fee-In-Lieu taxes; authorizing certain infrastructure credits; and other related matters.

Chairman Campbell: I will ask Administrator Caddell since we have not had an update since the first reading, are there any?

Administrator Caddell: I have no new information.

Chairman Campbell: I will ask Will Williams if he has any new updates about this since he is present this evening.

Will Williams: I have no new information.

Chairman Campbell asked the Council if they had any questions or comments. Hearing none, Councilwoman Ireland made the motion, and Councilman Talbert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Campbell: I will ask Administrator Caddell if we need to consider anything since the second reading.

Administrator Caddell: The only change from the second reading was a rewording of section VIII Legal Responsibility for clarity concerning the County's insurance obligations. This is more appropriate language based on guidance from the South Carolina Association of Counties. This morning they asked that I add the word county to department.

Chairman Campbell: It does not change the essence of what we are doing here.

Administrator Caddell: It does not.

Chairman Campbell: Do we need to amend this or accept it as a third reading?

Attorney Marine: The Council needs to make a motion to accept this ordinance, and then amend this ordinance due to the change that was given. Then, approve this ordinance with the change.

Administrator Caddell: Everything was in the exhibit that went out to the public except that one change with adding the word "county" to the paragraph.

Chairman Campbell: Council, do I hear a motion to approve this ordinance? Councilman Moody made the motion, and Councilman Talbert seconded. Now under discussion, I ask the Council for a motion to amend the main motion to add the word "County" to the ordinance before the word "department." Councilman Moody made the motion, and Councilwoman Ireland seconded. Motion passed unanimously. We are at the main motion for this ordinance. Any questions or comments from the Council concerning this ordinance as amended? Hearing none, motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Considering of approval of Resolution 21-23-1169, a resolution amending Resolution No. 11-12-234, naming an Alternate Director on the Board of Directors of the Nine County Joint agency known as Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority.

Chairman Campbell: I serve on the Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority Board, and a backup is always needed. This particular board requires a resolution from the Council to appoint someone to that position. The Administrator is always the backup and this would name Administrator Caddell as my backup on this board. Does the Council have any questions about this resolution?

Councilwoman Ireland: We previously had the past Administrator as the backup, correct?

Chairman Campbell: Yes. Do we have a motion to approve Resolution 21-23-1169? Councilman Talbert made the motion, and Councilwoman Kennion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of approval of the First Reading of Ordinance 21-23-781, to amend Article 5, Division 2, Purchasing of the Edgefield County Code of Ordinances.

Chairman Campbell: I will ask Administrator Caddell if he would like to explain this one to us.

Administrator Caddell: Staff recommends amending our purchasing ordinance with the following dollar amount changes:

- Maximum amount of items requiring bids increased from \$1000 to \$5000
- Maximum amount of items requiring written but not sealed bids increased from \$5000 to \$20,000
- Items requiring sealed bids shall increase from a \$5000 minimum to \$20,000
- Administrator contract authority should increase from \$5000 to \$10,000.

Chairman Campbell: This ordinance just changes the monetary limits?

Administrator Caddell: Correct.

Chairman Campbell: Council, do you have any questions or comments on this ordinance? Hearing none, Councilwoman Kennion made the motion, and Councilwoman Ireland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of approval to allow purchases through the national purchasing cooperatives Sourcewell and Omnia Partners.

Chairman Campbell: I will ask Administrator Caddell to walk us through this.

Administrator Caddell: National purchasing cooperatives provide the same services as our SC State contract program. Essentially bids have already been obtained so we don't have to. If the Council approves this item then we would simply be able to purchase from a National Contract program when pricing is less than state contract pricing.

Chairman Campbell: Is there any cost to join Sourcewell?

Administrator Caddell: No, you simply enroll and agree to their terms.

Chairman Campbell: Any questions or concerns from the Council? Hearing none.

Councilwoman Kennion made the motion, and Councilwoman Moody seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of approval to award the contract to Yarborough's Construction to construct a 16X24 pole building picnic shelter at 312 Penn St., for use as rental space and County recreational programs.

Chairman Campbell: I will ask Administrator Caddell to discuss the bids and the recommendation.

Administrator Caddell: We requested bids for a simple 16x24 pole building shelter for the park property at 312 Penn Street, where we are renovating the old Boy Scout building. Yarborough Construction, located in Batesburg had the low bid by far. I have also heard good things about them reputation-wise. We propose to fund this with the Recreation Escrow Account. Staff recommends approval.

Chairman Campbell: Do we have any questions or comments from the Council?

Councilman Moody: For public knowledge, please explain the difference in the bids.

Administrator Caddell: The difference in the bids is whether the contractor is local or out of area. Contractors who bid that are located out of the area bid higher due to the cost of transporting equipment and employees here. All of these concerns are considered when they bid for a project, which explains why their pricing is higher than local contractors. Hart Clark puts bids on the South Carolina Business Opportunities website to encourage the bidding process. But it is also important to let local contractors know that we have placed bids on websites. Local bidders often save the county a lot of money.

Councilwoman Ireland: Is this company from Batesburg?

Administrator Caddell: Yes.

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Councilwoman Ireland: We have not used them before?

Administrator Caddell: We have not.

Chairman Campbell: Questions or comments from the Council. Hearing none, Councilwoman Ireland made the motion, and Councilman Talbert seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of approval to award the contract to Yarborough's Construction to construct a 24x40 pole building picnic shelter at Bettis Park, for use as rental space and County recreational programs.

Chairman Campbell: I will Administrator Caddell to discuss these bids and his recommendation.

Administrator Caddell: We also requested bids to construct a 24x40 pole building at Bettis Park. Again, Yarborough's Construction was easily the low bid. This project will be funded by the state earmark for Bettis Park, not with County funds. Staff recommends approval.

Chairman Campbell: Questions or comments from the Council.

Councilwoman Kennion: How did you come up with the 24x40 size for this structure?

Administrator Caddell: This structure would be sort of in line with the current picnic shelter. It will be a little bigger due to the contractor's measurement of eight-foot pole buildings. That would explain why you have measurements like the 24x40 in eight-foot increments. Due to the similarity in size, it would make it easier for rental pricing and it will be the same rental cost.

Chairman Campbell: Does the Council have any further comments or questions? Hearing none, Councilman Moody made the motion, and Councilwoman Kennion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of approval of the First Reading of Ordinance 21-23-782, authorizing the execution and delivery of fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes agreement by and between Edgefield County, South Carolina, and Project Eagle to provide for payment of a fee-in-lieu of taxes; authorizing certain infrastructure credits; and other related matters.

Chairman Campbell: I will ask Administrator Caddell what details he can give us on this new ordinance.

Administrator Caddell: This is the first reading of an ordinance by title only for a fee-in-lieu of taxes agreement. More details will follow in the second reading. This agreement requires no investment by the County.

Chairman Campbell: I will ask Mr. Will Williams if he has any further details.

Will Williams: This is an existing industry that is growing in the county. They are looking to invest in the community by adding new jobs to the already sizeable employment staff.

Chairman Campbell: Questions or comments from the Council. Hearing none, Councilman Talbert made the motion, and Councilwoman Ireland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Public

Chairman Campbell opened this public comment period. Hearing no public comments, Chairman Campbell closed this public comment period.

Report By County Council Members

Councilwoman Kennion: I would like to thank the public, Sheriff Rowland, Mr. Meyers from Carolina Connect, Administrator Caddell, and Aretha Eubanks for helping to make the September 9, 2023, Community Awareness Meeting a success. I truly appreciated it.

Councilman Talbert: I heard great comments about the meeting Councilwoman Kennion.

Councilwoman Kennion: Thank you.

Councilman Moody: Administrator Caddell has applied for PARD grants to get a playground started at Sweetwater Community Center for citizens in that area. Hopefully, if that is successful, we will look to add other recreational activities to that park such as pickleball. But first, we will begin with a playground.

County Administrator's Report

1. The Law Enforcement Center is at 40% completion. The weather has been great for construction. The buildings have really taken form (foundations and block walls are up). We expect the contractor to begin laying bricks soon.
2. Old Scout Hut Building – The remodeling of this building is 90% complete. In terms of the remainder of the property, with the Council's approval of the shelter, all that will remain is the playground and landscaping. We will use this building for County meeting space, County recreation programs, and rentals.
3. Bettis Park – We have submitted the required paperwork for the state funds to upgrade Bettis Park. We have been told that the money will arrive in about four weeks. We have obtained bids on many items and are ready to start.
4. The Animal Care and Control Facility is going strong. The facility has received many donations of food and supplies. Adoptions are increasing. During these first few months, staff is identifying items that need to be changed in terms of operations, fees, policies, etc. We will meet with staff at the 90-day mark to identify any adjustments that need to be made and bring those to Council if needed.
5. Magistrate's Set-Off debt collection program – Recently Chief Magistrate Hitt advised me that he was ready to begin a set-off debt collection program to reclaim unpaid money owed to the County, usually in the form of fines and penalties. Participation in this program allows the SC Dept. of Revenue to assist in debt collection through the garnishment of individual SC income tax refunds. Presently, the County is owed \$375,000 of delinquent debts (just in the last five years). We have already submitted to the Department of Revenue \$119,000 of debt owed to the County through this program. A big thank you to Melanie Smith of the Magistrate's Office for taking this project on.

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6. On October 26 from 4-6 pm there will be a Joint County Council / Planning Commission special called meeting. This will be a training session entitled *Planning and Zoning Ethics and Guiding Principles for Local Government* presented by John Deloache, an attorney with the SC Association of Counties.
7. Litter Program update – Hart Clark

Assistant Administrator Clark: The Edgefield County litter control program was started by the County Council in April of 2021. Since its inception, they have picked up 123,305 pounds of garbage from our public streets. That is almost 62 tons of garbage! They have also taken 46 enforcement actions, 38 of which have been completed, and 8 which are still being pursued. These range from simple littering to major dumping, and actions against individual property owners who have allowed their properties to collect to much refuse.

The large majority of roads in the county have been cleaned up and are only requiring maintenance actions to keep them clean. At the start of the program litter control was averaging about a road per day, they are now averaging about three per day to collect the same amount of garbage.

Going forward we plan to eliminate our open part-time litter control position and maintain our current level of staffing with two full-time positions to maintain the work that has been done. Below you will find a chart that shows litter pickup efforts by month and year as well as the SCDOT's contribution to the litter control efforts.

| Edgefield County Litter Control | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------------|--------------|
| Month | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | SCDOT 2023 | Total Pounds |
| January | | 3,160 | 2,480 | | 5,640 |
| February | | 3,020 | 2,540 | | 5,560 |
| March | | 3,720 | 3,100 | | 6,820 |
| April | 2,620 | 3,220 | 2,360 | 20,840 | 29,040 |
| May | 2,240 | 2,920 | 5,545 | 1,520 | 12,225 |
| June | 3,420 | 2,360 | 4,360 | 2,280 | 12,420 |
| July | 2,160 | 2,540 | 4,440 | 1,780 | 10,920 |
| August | 3,240 | 3,000 | 3,460 | 2,220 | 11,920 |
| September | 3,220 | 2,180 | 3,080 | 1,600 | 10,080 |
| October | 4,040 | 2,860 | | | 6,900 |
| November | 3,700 | 3,320 | | | 7,020 |

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| December | 2,820 | 1,940 | | | 4,760 |
| Total | 27,460 | 34,240 | 31,365 | 30,240 | 123,305 |

Chairman Campbell: Questions or comments from the Council about this report to Administrator Caddell or Assistant Administrator Hart?

Councilwoman Kennion: I have seen staff picking up trash on Sunday starting at Sara’s Peach stand and heading toward Trailside. They had trash bags all along the side of the road on a Sunday. They are making Highway 25 look beautiful. I really appreciate it.

Assistant Administrator Clark: You saw Mr. Randy Doran on Sunday because when he takes a day off during the weekday, he will work a day on the weekend to make up that time of missed work.

Councilwoman Ireland: I would like to thank Assistant Administrator Hart Clark for the work that has been done in litter control. We are now in the maintenance part of this issue. We did not think it could happen so fast. I also want to thank the Magistrates Office for pushing these concerning fines and consequences. Maybe, sometime in the near future, we can move from maintenance, to not even having to maintain due to people figuring out that there are repercussions to littering. I thank both of these departments for their combined help.

Councilman Talbert: I have spoken with Assistant Administrator Clark concerning where litter needs to be picked up from. The work that has been done to remove the trash has made a difference. Everyone who is involved has done a tremendous job. That is what is making Edgefield County so beautiful when we have trash picked up. We definitely appreciate it.

Assistant Administrator Clark: It is easier for major dumping issues because we can monitor them. Regular litter tickets are rare because we have to physically see the person litter. But illegal dumping has historically been an issue that is slowly being corrected. That is a big plus for the work that has been done in litter control. Another concern we are working on is illegal dumping in the Convenience Centers. We have commercial contractors that use the Convenience Center inappropriately. For this reason, when you see Randy Doran on Sundays on Highway 25 or Sweetwater road he is keeping an eye on those two particular Convenience Centers due to this concern. Those two centers are having the most issues with it. But we have come a long way and we have definitely improved. The program is working and running smoothly.

Comments by County Council Chairman

I appreciate the work the County Council has undertaken tonight. I think citizens should understand that local government – that means town councils and county councils – are not the federal government, and we’re not state government.

We are the entities that look at the local needs for our county to flourish, all while protecting citizens, businesses, and industry. And we have to do all that by balancing the budget and working through priorities.

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Tonight's agenda is a reflection of that kind of work.

Also, congratulations to our Administrator, David Caddell, on his first anniversary this month as our Administrator. I think I speak for everyone when I say thank you for your hard work. We appreciate what you do.

Council, that's all I have. Since we have an executive session next on the agenda for an update from our attorney on pending litigation, I'd entertain a motion to move into an executive session for that reason. Councilwoman Ireland made the motion, and Councilman Talbert seconded.

Executive Session

The County Council adjourned into Executive Session at 6:38 P.M.
The County Council returned from Executive Session with no action taken at 7:03 P.M.
The County Council is in regular session.

Adjourn

Chairman Campbell: We have no further business on the agenda. I will accept a motion to adjourn. Councilman Talbert made the motion, and Councilwoman Kennion seconded. The County Council meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Edgefield County Council



Dean Campbell, Council Chairman

ATTEST



Aretha Eubanks, Clerk to Council