

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**April 1, 2008**

On Tuesday, April 1, 2008, the Edgefield County Council held its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 P. M. in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield.

**Members present**

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman  
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman  
Norman Dorn, Councilman  
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman  
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

**Others present**

John W. Pettigrew, Jr., County Administrator  
John F. Byrd, Jr., County Attorney  
Lynn W. Strom, Finance/Budget Manager  
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council  
and others as per list attached

Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Rev. Michael Key. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

**Minutes**

The motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2008, Edgefield County Council meeting, as presented, was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

**Reports**

No comments.

**Ordinances**

Councilman Bright made a motion to accept first reading of Ordinance No. 07-08-596, "An Ordinance Providing for the FY 08-09 General Operating Budget, and Establishing Ancillary Budgets for Debt Service, E-911 Administration, Solid Waste Disposal, Victims' Bill of Rights, Emergency Medical Services, Countywide Recreation, and Certain Capital Expenditures." Motion was seconded by Councilman Hudson, and the motion carried unanimously.

First reading of Ordinance No. 07-08-597, "An Ordinance Adopting the Updated Building Codes" was approved by a motion made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright. The motion carried unanimously.

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**New Business**

Council received a funding request of \$3,000 from the American Legion (Hezzie Griffis) Post #30 in Edgefield. Mr. Sam Watson, Jr., Commander of Post #30 addressed council concerning the financial problems they are having, caused in part by the high cost of insurance and maintenance requirements. The veterans are mostly in their eighties and they cannot do the repairs to the building they once could. Their reserves have been drained mostly due to these two items. At present, the building is not covered by either fire or liability insurance which in essence also affects the county since the Legion Hut is used as a voting precinct. Their plans were to put the \$3,000 (if received) in escrow, bond or CD, and just use that for insurance each year. Just the liability is \$800.00. Liability and fire is \$1,000.00 but Mr. Watson's itemized statement showed both to be \$800.00.

Councilman Kitchens stated that he was certainly in favor of helping the Legion but felt it would be a re-occurring request. Mr. Watson, when asked about fund raisers, stated they are trying to implement some things (keep in mind Mr. Watson said that he is commander for only one year). Plans are to have a steak cook-out yearly (sell tickets for that). The cook-out will be held in conjunction with the ladies' auxiliary bake sale. Members have chipped in and they do have a little operating capital at the present.

Councilman Bright asked what the "Post" was doing to attract more members because he stated that he knew the American Legions were having problems in most places. Mr. Watson said that when the guys came back from Iraq a year's free membership was offered to any of them that wanted to join and they got two new members. They have just gotten three new members from contacting individuals personally. Their last meeting there were thirty five present because of the newsletter (Mr. Watson felt) mailed out referring to the monetary problems the "Post" is having. Mr. Watson also stated that they have been in contact with the black post several times inviting them to join with Post 30 and the offer was declined. Anyone, individually or collectively, is invited to join.

Councilman Kitchens made a motion to fund the American Legion Post #30 a one-time \$800 for the insurance, seconded by Councilman Dorn. Motion carried unanimously. The repairs hopefully can be taken care of by the funding provided by the town and the contributions by the members.

**Old Business**

At the council's regular meeting held on March 4<sup>th</sup>, a Planning Commission Board at-large appointment was made. At the March 18<sup>th</sup> called meeting a council member attempted, by motion, to rescind the March 4<sup>th</sup> vote. The motion to rescind the vote died for the lack of a majority vote and the council requested the county attorney to review the matter and give a legal opinion of the appointment at the April 1<sup>st</sup> council meeting.

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The findings, after Mr. Byrd consulted with two other attorneys with the South Carolina Association of Counties, were that the vacancy was properly filled on March 4<sup>th</sup> and the newly appointed Commissioner from the meeting should be allowed to serve a regular 2-year term, effective as of that date. Council complied with the findings.

**Administrator's report**

There are several projects that have been completed over the last couple of months.

The **county parking** lots have been re-sealed and re-stripped paid with C-funds.

**Sweetwater Convenience Center** expansion that council approved and Tri-County obtained a grant that covered most of the cost. The concrete, paving, the electrical and fencing have been completed. The two new compactors to be installed at this site will be in later this summer and those are being paid for by Tri-County. This is the busiest site in the three counties.

**Recreation.** The baseball season began this past Saturday with a very good crowd participating. The girls' softball begins this week. The number of teams have doubled this year and soccer is half way through its season.

The administrator reminded everyone of some meetings, one being the Economic Alliance Breakfast. These monthly breakfast meetings have been held for about three months and the next meeting will be held Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, at Pine Ridge, 7:30. We invite more people to participate in areas related growth in the county, tourism, commercial, retail, anything other than industrial economic development is subject for discussion at the Alliance meeting.

**Planning Commission.** The Planning Commission is undergoing the strategic planning process. The next meeting for that is Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. At each of these meetings, two areas are being discussed and public input is encouraged and welcomed. The two areas that will be discussed on the 10<sup>th</sup> are economic development and natural resources.

**Chairman Kneece / Tri-County Animal Control**

Mr. Kneece was asked at the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting to talk with McCormick and Saluda Counties concerning the possibility of a Tri-County Animal Control to done with the three counties on a percentage basis. The three counties discussed this about five years ago and McCormick and Saluda opted out. Now, they are interested so a meeting will be hosted here (Edgefield) to discuss a Tri-County Animal Control.

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**Guests**

Mrs. Shirley Newby, Clerk of Court, addressed council concerning the budget. Her budget (Printing & Office Supplies) was cut \$800 from last year. She requested more but if she could just keep what she had and not be cut would be appreciated. Replacement cartridges for three new printers she has received costs \$200-\$300.

Her postage was also cut \$1500. Certified mail is \$5.21 and will increase by five percent. By law she is required to mail certain types of letters certified. They have tried to cut as much as possible.

Not to go over budget is a concern of Mrs. Newby. Just because there are x-number of dollars in the budget does not mean that her office will spend it just because it is there. It will be spent only if it is absolutely necessary. And, she does not believe that budgets should be "if you don't use it you lose it." This, she said, encourages wasteful spending, and you should be very careful with the county's money, but I do think that our offices have to have the money in the budget because expenses are going up.

Boarding and Lodging was cut by \$400 (08-09 year). Her goal has always been to take someone from the office to the convention with her because the meeting is for Clerk of Courts and Register of Deeds and with the meetings held at the same time of day she likes for the other person to take notes for her while she is attending the Clerk of Courts meeting. Mrs. Newby would like to keep the same amount so two of them could attend this meeting.

Also there is a fall convention but generally no one from her office can attend because of the court schedule. She has never attended the elected officials, fall conventions or the Association of Counties but she would like the money left there so if the court schedule permits some of them may attend the meetings. Her first concern is the Clerk's office, not going to a convention but in these conventions it is the core where they obtain the knowledge that can be brought back and put to good use.

Mrs. Newby would like for the council to consider that the courthouse security begin in July. There have been many tragedies in courthouses and she would like to make sure safety measures are taken for all individuals entering the courthouse. She thanked council for their consideration of her budget and courthouse security.

A total amount for Sizemore to provide security for the courthouse is approximately \$40,000 a year depending on type of security (whether the individual would carry a gun, etc. at check points). Councilman Kitchens asked if in-house would be less expensive. Being contracted means that the company would be responsible for uniforms, insurance, etc. whereas in-house the county would be responsible.

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**No comments from the public.**

**Claims approved:**

**PAYROLL: 2/25/08 thru 3/9/08**

Regular.....\$218,783.20

**PAYROLL: 3/10/08 thru 3/23/08**

Regular.....\$220,076.63

**General Operating.....\$711,890.75**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Hudson to convene in executive session pursuant to Code Section 30-4-70 (a) (2) of the SC Code of Laws 1976, as amended, concerning a proposed contractual arrangement, and (2) possible litigation, returning to regular session at the discretion of the Chairman.

Returning to regular session, a motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to negotiate towards the purchasing of the Calliham building. Motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken on the litigation items.

There being no further business, Councilman Hudson moved for adjournment, seconded by Councilman Dorn. A budget work session is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., with the regular meeting of council to be held Tuesday, May 6, 2008.

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B. Everette Kitchens, Council

ATTEST

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Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council