

AGENDA
EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
County Council Chambers
September 21, 2021
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 –
Pledge of Allegiance

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

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.

1. Consideration of appointment to Edgefield County Planning Commission.....Lisa Whitaker

Consent Agenda Ends Here

VII. NEW BUSINESS

The County of Edgefield will be receiving \$5,300,000 from the American Recovery Plan funds. This summer we received our first half and we should receive the second portion by June 2022. Generally the funds can support businesses, economically depressed individuals, Covid related projects and infrastructure; specifically broadband, water, sewer and stormwater. These funds need to be spent by the end of 2024.

Over the last few months, Council and staff have been reviewing several different proposals. Each of these will entail several months of planning and engineering before construction can begin. For this reason, council needs to begin the process to select which projects they would like to support with these funds. At the meeting tonight we will discuss four different types of categories for which these funds could be used.

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These include:

1. Broadband – Aiken Electric Cooperative (AEC) has committed to provide broadband to all their current electric customers in Edgefield County. Although Northland and Comcast provide broadband to several areas in Edgefield County, unfortunately there's about 2000 services that will not be served by anyone in the future. AEC estimates they can provide broadband to these underserved areas at an estimated cost just over \$6 million. We recommend completing the engineering to determine a more accurate cost. If they are going to serve these non-AEC areas they would like to request County's assistance by providing 50% of the funding. The overall costs could be reduced by requiring non-AEC broadband user paying a higher monthly fee. Gary Stooksbury will be at the meeting to answer any questions concerning this work.
2. Water Supply – The Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority (ECWSA) supplies water to all three Towns, numerous residential areas and all industrial and commercial customers in Edgefield County. Altogether they serve over 11,000 customers. Their 50 year old water treatment plant is currently operating at 80% of its capacity. ECWSA in **Exhibit I** is estimating the cost to expand the plant from its current 8.85 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) to 10.5 or larger MGD at a cost of \$5 million. They are requesting \$1 million from the County assistance to assist with the expansion. ECWSA Administrator John Hare will be present to answer any questions from Council concerning their proposal.
3. Edgefield County Stormwater Projects – There are several areas in Edgefield County that flood or have stormwater deficiencies that need attention. Most of these are in the southwestern portion of the county. We asked our roadway engineers to review and evaluate these areas and we will have further information that will be sent to you prior to the meeting.
4. Nonprofits – We received inquiries from nonprofits concerning the use of funds for those in need within Edgefield County. If the Council would like to assist with funding some of these needs we would need to open this up to all nonprofits. We faced a similar situation in 2011 when we were budgeting funds to numerous nonprofits. The number of nonprofits requesting funds grew yearly along with the amount they requested. Council finally decided that the role of County government was not to financially support nonprofits. Since that budget we stopped funding all nonprofits. If the Council would like to help nonprofits with these funds I can notify all of them by mail.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

All additional comments

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO REPORT BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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