

WORKSESSION
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

DECEMBER 7, 2015

A Worksession of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 7th day of December 2015, at 5 p.m., at the Darlington County Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway, Darlington, South Carolina, to receive information from Horry County Solid Waste Authority regarding the operation of their landfill and recycling centers.

NOTICE OF MEETING

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the meeting notice, giving the date, time, and place of the meeting was mailed in advance to the local newspapers, persons requesting notification, and posted on the bulletin board at the entrance to the County Administrator's Office.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Bobby Hudson, Vice Chairman Robbin Brock, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mr. David Coker, Mrs. Wilhelmina P. Johnson, and Mr. Robert L. Kilgo, Jr.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Marvin Le Flowers and Ms. Mozella Nicholson.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Terence Arrington, Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Codes Enforcement Director Randy Evans, Emergency Preparedness Director Mac McDonald, Environmental Services Director Renee Howle, Assistant Environmental Services Director Paula Newton, Emergency Services Director Michelle Moore, Representatives from Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Representative from Michael Baker International, Inc., and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Ms. Samantha Lyles of the News and Press.

WORKSESSION

Chairman Hudson opened the Worksession at 5 p.m.

Mr. Arrington explained that the purpose of the worksession was to provide Council with an overview of Horry County Solid Waste Authority. County staff had visited Marion, Dillon, Horry, and Mecklenburg counties' solid waste operations to gather ideas and feedback. Mr. Arrington mentioned that Michael Baker International would develop a master plan for the landfill. He distributed Horry and Darlington counties fee schedule along with a map of the county landfill.

Mr. Michael Bessant, Assistant Executive Director of Horry County Solid Waste Authority, presented information regarding Horry County Solid Waste Authority's background; tipping fees; MSW (municipal solid waste) fees; and FY2015 tonnage statistics for MSW, C&D (construction and demolition), yard and wood waste, C&D recycling, and other waste. He also presented information on the Authority's MSW landfill; C&D landfill; C&D recycling facility; C&D recycled materials; material recycling facility; single stream recycling; processed material that is sold to the highest bidder; e-waste recycling wherein a tipping fee is charged for each item; FY2015 recycling statistics; food scrap composting; green power partnership with Santee Cooper; collection and hauling; disaster debris site; household hazardous waste; and their partnership with Horry County Council on Aging Resale Store. Mr. Bessant stressed the importance of educating the public and businesses. Horry County Solid Waste Authority sponsors school recycling programs and awards and community projects, which are paid for from revenue from tipping fees.

Mr. Bassant also mentioned the Authority's use of temporary agencies to obtain employees as needed; cost to remodel certain facilities; the items they recycle and sell; material recovery facility where all their recyclables go; capital equipment replacement account established so that they do not have to finance equipment purchases; and special budget for certain non-profit organizations. He pointed out that Horry County Council decides where to build the recycling centers. Once the centers are built, the Solid Waste Authority takes over and bills the county for the Authority's services. The recycling centers vary in size and hours of operations and accept no commercial waste. Horry County Solid Waste Authority provides collection and hauling at no cost to businesses that pay for a collection container.

Question / Answer Period

In response to Councilwoman Johnson's concern regarding recyclables, Assistant Environmental Services Director Paul Newton explained that Darlington County does not receive any revenue from recyclables. All the county's recyclables go to Sonoco Products wherein Horry County Solid Waste Authority sells their recyclables to the highest bidder.

Mr. Arrington mentioned that Michael Baker International would help the county establish a master plan for the landfill.

Mr. Bassant indicated that Horry County Solid Waste Authority's Solid Waste Management Plan was prepared by a group of citizens and county officials (a Technical Advisory Committee) and is updated every three years.

Mr. Arrington talked about the need for a solid waste master plan for the landfill and a system to enforce how the landfill is used. He mentioned some of the complaints regarding the recycling centers/landfill and the need to talk about recycling to generate additional revenue.

Mrs. Johnson talked about the former yellow bag program. She felt that with the Yellow Bag Program, the Environmental Services Department did not have financial problems.

Chairman Hudson thanked Horry County Solid Waste Authority's representatives for sharing their information. There being no further comments, the worksession was closed at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. JaNet Bishop
Clerk to Council

Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of January 5, 2015.