

Special Called County Council Meeting

August 24, 2020

6:00 PM

County Council met in special session, with Chairman Roy Costner presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to members of council and local news media on August 19, 2020.

Council Members in Attendance:

Roy Costner, Chairman

Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman

Wes Hendricks, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Ensley Feemster

Carl Hudson

Trey Whitehurst

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator

Lisa Bryant, Acting Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Roy Costner called the meeting of August 24, 2020 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Trey Whitehurst led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a):

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Recycling Center Department

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purpose.

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

Chairman Roy Costner called the Public Session back to Order and advised the following:

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Recycling Center Department – **No action taken out of Executive Session.**

RECYCLING CENTER OPERATIONS

Chairman Costner stated Council wanted to find a way to be open again on Wednesdays at the Recycling Centers. He stated that Mr. Roper made this happen, but with different hours (8:00 AM – 6:00 PM, instead of 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM). He stated he has received a lot of phone calls about these new hours not working with citizens in Pickens County.

Vice Chairman Bowers stated Council requested that Staff come up with a plan back in February and staff came back to Council and opened the recycling centers up seven days a week, but different hours. He stated he personally witnessed himself that the functionality of the new hours is not working.

- Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to reopen all the recycling centers from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Monday - Saturday, with the idea that individuals inside the gate before 7:00 PM will still be allowed to throw their recyclable trash away. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. Chairman Costner opened the floor for discussion:
 - Vice Chairman Bowers amends Chairman Costner’s motion, stating he would like to see the recycling centers back to the old hours from 7:30 AM – 7:20 PM, Monday – Saturday. He stated the individuals inside the gate by 7:20 PM are allowed to finish discarding trash.
 - Mr. Roper stated this change is 2-3 years old, and the times were changed to begin with due to a budget year. He stated Council was tasked to some difficult budget decisions during that time when the change was made. He stated Wednesdays were a slow day, compared to other days. Mr. Roper stated in the winter months, once it is dark outside, after 6pm is not a heavy use time.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he agrees that the winter months after 6pm are slow. He stated in the summer, people come later due to more daylight. He stated no one is going to go to the recycling centers after dark.
 - Vice Chairman Bowers stated he personally witnessed a situation last week, where he saw fifteen cars turn around between 5:55 – 6:01 PM.
 - Mr. Roper stated we need to have some traffic counters, no matter what the hours are. He presented and explained a 2020 Sun Graph for South Carolina.
 - After more discussion between Council and Mr. Roper on the Solid Waste/Recycling Centers and the budget, Mr. Roper stated we are 2-3 weeks in to new hours. He asked if Council would be willing to wait until September 14th Council Meeting to revisit this discussion and he can bring Council specific numbers on how much it would cost to keep these recycling centers open. He stated it will probably take us that long to staff these recycling centers regardless.
 - Chairman Costner stated he would like to move forward as soon as possible.
 - Councilman Whitehurst stated he understands we have had some issues, but if we take another three weeks to analyze this and look at the numbers at the next Council meeting.
 - Vice Chairman Bowers stated he really feels they need to be open until at least 7:00 PM.
 - Councilman Whitehurst stated he would like to see the traffic volume and numbers before changing the hours right away.
 - Vice Chairman Bowers stated he would like to see a target start date of September 15th, after the next meeting.
- After more discussion, Chairman Roy Costner amends the motion, stating he would like to see this move forward with a tentative September 15th start date for the recycling centers to be open from 7:30 AM – 7:20 PM, with the gates closing at 7:20 PM. Councilman Carl Hudson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

ADJOURN:

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

Roy B. Costner, III, Chairman of County Council