CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY –JANUARY 7, 2020

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor-Elect Curtis Boyd, Councilpersons: John Segars, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed, Councilman Howard Nettles and John Milling. Also, present: City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland, Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Building Official Alex Gainey, W&S Superintendent Mr. Kinsaul, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Ms. Karen Carroll, Ms. Jonna Carter, Mr. Todd Hardee, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Mr. A.D. Jordan, Mr. Danny Watson, Mrs. Rosena James, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Bill Hancock with The Brittingham Group, Mrs. Andrea Knapp, Ms. Antoinette Muldrow, Ms. Wanda Wingate, Mrs. Anna DeWitt, Ms. Gloria Hines, Ms. Ronda Brown, Mr. Roosevelt Scott, Mr. Ernest Boston, Mrs. Linda Brunson, Ms. Carolyn Bruce, Ms. Jamie Steen, Ms. Gladys Jules, Mr. Brantley Jett, and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present was Mr. Bobby Bryant, News Reporter from the News & Press.

ADMINISTATION OF OATH OF OFFICE FOR MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Coroner Mr. Todd Hardee welcomed everyone to the first City Council meeting of 2020. Mr. Hardee said he thought it would be appropriate if we took just a moment and spoke about the seat, he is sitting in tonight which was occupied by our friend Daniel B. Causey, III. Mr. Hardee said Judge Causey went to be with the Lord on Sunday and he served our community for three decades. He said he was a pillar to this community, and he served this bench with the utmost professionalism and he was a mountain of a man. Mr. Hardee offered his congratulations to Mayor Elect Curtis Boyd and Councilman Elect Howard Nettles. He also thanked those who continue to serve on council-Councilpersons, Sheila Baccus, Elaine Reed, Bryant Gardner, John Milling and John Segars. Mr. Hardee extended his profound appreciation to his friend Carolyn Bruce for her many years of distinguished service to our town and also to his friend Gloria Hines for her hard work, never ending drive, her persistence, her guidance and most of all her

friendship. Mr. Hardee said, "You have been a great advocate for Darlington on many levels and a pioneer on many more". "You will go down in history as not only the first woman to serve as our Mayor and not only the first person of color to serve as our Mayor, but as a leader and the rebuilding and the transformation of a little southern town and birthing it into a new day". Mr. Hardee said before you can actually see your future, you really need to know a little about your past. He said before he administer the Oath of Office to the new Mayor, but before he does he would like to read the names of those persons that have served before him: Starting in 1836, Edgar W. Charles, Dr. T.J.K. Dargan, Dr. Theodore Dargan, Moses Andrew Huggins, A.C. Spain, E.K. Dargan, John Gregg McCall, John Floyd, Hiram Himes, George W. Dargan, John Jay Ward, Berriman W. Edward, John Woods, James Carter Wilcox, M.D., William F. Dargan, W.M. Haynesworth, George E. Dargan, Charles S. McCullough, C.B. Edwards, Edward Colgate Dennis, Edwin Cox, J. Alexander McLeod, Edwin Fountain, G.H. Brown, Dr. O.H. Alexander, Dr. G.B. Edwards, Claude Vaughan, Fred B. Stem, Cecil E. Harper, Tom Buchanan, John Jay Ward, Mr. Frank Wells, Albert P. Coggeshall, J. Ronald Ward, Tony Watkins, and Ms. Gloria Hines. Mr. Todd Hardee administered the Oath of Office to Mayor-Elect Curtis Boyd and to newly elected Councilman-Mr. Howard Nettles. Mr. Hardee then administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Bryant Gardner and Councilman John Milling.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to nominate Councilman John Segars for Mayor Pro-Tem. Councilman John Milling seconded the motion. Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Howard Nettles, Elaine Reed, John Milling, John Segars and Mayor Curtis Boyd approved the motion.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Boyd said, "I do things a little different, so I asked that at each City Council meeting we have a Pastor to come pray for us and tonight he asked Pastor Kyle Myers to pray for us and then we will have the Pledge of Allegiance".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, Seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed to approve the minutes of the December 3,

2019 Council Meeting. Mayor Boyd and Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Baccus, Reed, Milling and Segars voted in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, which was seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner. Councilpersons John Segars, John Millings, Elaine Reed, Howard Nettles, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner and Mayor Curtis Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said the DDRA Board has selected its new Leadership Team for 2020. Mr. Pete Dennis will serve as President and Mrs. Nancy Matthews will serve as Vice-President. Mrs. Rock said they had a successful "Shop Darlington Contest" during the holiday with more than $12,000 being spent in connection with the contest. (This only includes those people that sent in receipts) She said the three winners will be announced later this week and they will appear in the News & Press. Mrs. Rock said they welcome people to be members of DDRA; businesses, individuals, civic groups and churches are invited to join as members by calling her at (843) 992-1561 or send an email to info@buildupdarlington.org. She said they can feature their news, employee recognitions, sales, new products, special hours and events for people interested in Darlington as well as TV stations, radio stations and newspapers through their text/email news alert system. Mrs. Rock said this year they are offering a special member referral bonus for all new paid memberships for 2020 the member who referred them will get a ticket to the "2020 Taste of Darlington" and the member with the most referrals will get a packet of tickets to the Southern 500 Race. She said another benefit of the DDRA comes each month with a breakfast invitation for businesses to network and learn about the DDRA programs and give feedback for future projects at their monthly members breakfast at 8:00 AM on the last Wednesday of the month at Takis Diner. Breakfast is provided for Members Businesses at no charge; nonmembers are welcome to attend for a nominal donation of $5.00 per person. The DDRA will be presenting an award chosen by its members at the Chamber Annual Banquet. Wednesday April 8, 2020 will be the DDRA Annual Golf Tournament at Darlington Country Club; Thursday April 23, 2020 will be the "Taste of Darlington at

Darlington Raceway. A new event they will be adding this year will be a "Food Truck Festival at Darlington Raceway on Saturday June 6, 2020.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – MS. HARRIETT HOBBS

Ms. Hobbs said the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce is still taking nominations for its annual award presentations in the following categories: Lifetime Achievement, Citizen of the Year, Community Pride, Educator of the Year, Business of the Year & Legacy Award. Ms. Hobbs said they will be accepting nominations until January 15th, with the Awards Banquet being held on Thursday February 6, 2020 at the Darlington Country Club. Ms. Hobbs said this year they will not have the traditional sit-down dinner but rather a party-type atmosphere with heavy hors d'oeuvres, a sangria type punch will be available as well as tea, coffee and a cash bar. Ms. Hobbs said they are asking everyone to don their best jeans and sweater. She said ladies can put on a strand of pearls. She said they are going to celebrate the 2020 with what Darlington has done in the past and what they look forward to in the future. Ms. Hobbs said they will network, talk with friends, mingle and then they will have their awards presentations, so this will not be the traditional banquet. Ms. Hobbs said they have a Ribbon Cutting coming up on January 30th at the Healing Place. They are planning the dates for two other Ribbon Cuttings coming up in February. The Chamber has five new members in the month of January. She said a new business contacted her yesterday with plans to come to Darlington and they want to join the Chamber and they will also be looking for an office space.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL (5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Mr. Linwood Epps said he has two things he wants to talk about. First, there are red cones that sits on Camelia Court. He said, "Why don't you all pull that line from one end, which is a cul-de-sac all the way down to Blue Street and fix those water lines"? He said, "you patch them all the time, why don't you fix them"? He said the second thing is the Recreation Department. He said, "I've sat in here and heard you all discuss ballfield, ballfield, ballfield". He said, "You buy land, you sell land". He said, "I don't even know who you sold it to; who did you sell it to"? Mr. Epps said, "And now you've got it on the agenda for tonight. When are you going to tell us something? Tell us what you're doing; tell us that we're getting ready to buy land at 109 Camelia Court. Why is that a secret where you going to buy land and then when you get ready to sell it, why don't you tell us"? Mr.

Epps asked that Council keep them informed of what's going on because there's a lot of them that want to see Darlington do good. Mr. Epps said, "There's a lot of us old people that don't have too much to do that don't mind getting involved, if you'll let us know". Mr. Epps said, "Tell us what you're doing about the ballfields. I've heard this for umpteen years, that we're going to do something about the ballfields; you haven't done nothing yet"?

Mrs. Diane Pruitt said she her husband Scott Pruitt own the home at 368 W. Broad Street in the historic district. She said they have been working for a couple of years now on the renovation and restoration of the home to the best of their ability. To the best of what the architecture and the neighborhood and history of that home requires. Mrs. Pruitt said she appreciate greatly for the last time that I spoke before Council, and Mayor Hines, thank you with the deepest of respect for addressing issues of the water drains. It took one week to resolve the issues on W. Broad Street & Edwards Street. we haven't had any flooding issues since and I thank you all sincerely for addressing that problem. She said she is here tonight to speak on the Historic District. Mrs. Pruitt said she is proud that they are working on the home because this is a very important pillar of the community built in 1890 by Lawrence Reese. She said one of the things she has a concern about is the inconsistency in renovations in the new construction in the area, the rules and regulations and the ordinances that are on the books and where the guidelines are specifically and who is to maintain the adherence to the ordinances when there is new construction or when there is renovations to an existing structure. Mrs. Pruitt said we have a beautiful opportunity in front of us with the growth of this City and I would love to see this entire area grow as it was structed originally. She said I would love to see the integrity of the Historic District on W. Broad Street maintained. She said she has some concerns about where the integrity in the City in the maintenance of those guidelines lie. She said she knows we have a Historic Landmark Commission and she knows we have ordinances on the books. Mrs. Pruitt said historic home has propositions for renovations. When there's new construction there's guidelines for that as well, but I'm afraid that somewhere down the line that's gone by the wayside. She said, "I'm afraid that our Zoning and Planning Office is a little overwhelmed and burdened with the majority of the decisions that needs to be made". She said I think it's being passed forward to them and at some point, the ball is being dropped and our historic district does not have the integrity that the ordinance has required. Mrs. Pruitt asked Council today and going forward

to please take a look at the ordinances regarding the historic preservation of W. Broad Street district. She said you did an outstanding job of making sure that the flooding stopped so that we have the opportunity to restore these homes without further damage. Mrs. Pruitt asked Mayor & Council again to please review that and make a decision about how they are going to move forward from today into the future, not only in the W. Broad Street historic but in the City of Darlington as a whole.

Ms. Jamie Steen, Executive Director for the Housing Authority said on the agenda tonight Council is going to be discussing a playground that's going to be very near to their property at Bowen Manor. Ms. Steen said she wanted to let them know that they have fifty-five kids under the age of 12 at Bowen Manor. She said the closest playground to them is their main office which is across Main Street. She said they have two playgrounds in that are but none on the other side of town. Ms. Steen said as the Housing Authority Executive Director she is willing to help the City by providing security cameras that the police will have access to so that it will be a secure area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A) 2018-2019 – AUDIT PRESENTATION – THE BRITTINGHAM GROUP – MR. BILL HANCOCK

Mr. Hancock said his firm was engaged to audit the books of the City of Darlington for 2018-2019 …Mr. Hancock said probably the number one thing that every municipality looks for is, what's the opinion. He said the City received an unmodified also known as an "unqualified" or clean opinion for the year which is good. Mr. Hancock said this letter is also an opinion from your independent audit where they comment on the City's compliance on grants, agreements, contracts and other things that are legally binding to the City. They also comment and offer opinions on our structure and internal controls. Mr. Hancock said when they tested to see if the City made their payroll tax deposits on time and for the right amount, they didn't find any errors. When they tested the municipal court system to see if fines had been calculated correctly and sent to the State Treasurer for the right amount, they didn't find any errors. When they tested the water & sewer bills that go out, they didn't find any errors in the calculation, billing, receipt or recording of those funds. Mr. Hancock said this was the second year of

their agreement with the City for their audit services and now that he has two years of information readily available, he wanted to bring their attention to a few things; mainly the general fund and the water & sewer fund. He said on page 6 of the audit, looking at the cash and cash equivalent in the general fund in the amount of $2,377,000, that amount is down about $325,000 from last fiscal year. Mr. Hancock said that's neither good nor bad, but it's information for the governing body to have and then discuss with management at a time it deems appropriate. Mr. Hancock then went to page 10 and went over the budget to actual for the general fund. He said the deficit of revenues under expenditures was $293,000 this year. He said it is no big deal, and this is for information, but it is worthy to note that 2018 had a budget deficit of $221,000 so when you couple those you've had a budget deficit of a half million dollars in the general fund in the past two years. Mr. Hancock said, "What does that mean"? He said that means ask questions, give directives, have management figure out solutions if there's something you want to change. He told Council they have the financial information available to them now so going into your upcoming budget you can do something about this. He told Council they haven't always had this information upfront in a timely manner. On page 11 under cash & cash equivalent in the water and sewer fund it shows we have $1,001,000. This time the year before we had $1,400,000 which is a $235,000 in cash in the water & sewer department. Mr. Hancock said, "There's no good or bad in that it's just information for this body". He then went on to page 12 and drew their attention to the line "Loss before capital contributions and transfers". He said this is the income statement for our water & sewer fund and stormwater fund. These are supported by user fees. He said the page shows the operating service revenues less your operating service expenses and you take from that your interest expense on the outstanding debt which is basically what you need to run your system. The water & sewer fund showed a loss of $410,000 and the stormwater fund showed a loss before capital contributions and transfers, so for the year that's a $430,000 loss in those user fee revenue generated funds. Mr. Hancock said it's not a big deal, just for information but let's put it in context and compare that and add it to the numbers we had for last year. He said last year's number was a $505,000 loss in water and sewer and $122,000 loss in stormwater which is a combined $628,000 loss for those two enterprises which means if you combine these two funds for the two years, it showed $1,058,000 loss. Mr. Hancock said, "What does that mean"? "Is that bad and if it is what do you want to do about it"? Mr. Hancock said he would encourage the City to engage to do a Rate Study. He said there are several organizations in the

Southeast that do these, and we will be able to compare what our rates are for water, sewer, for solid waste pickup in the Pee Dee Region as well as municipalities close by. Mr. Hancock said the City needs to know whether we are charging enough or if we are charging too much. Just so we know are expenses are in line with what our peers are; are they too much or are they not enough. He said the only way we can make decision is to get the information. Mayor Boyd asked, "Over the two-year period there's over $1,058,000 loss, if that what you're saying"? Mr. Hancock said, "Yes". Mayor Boyd said, "It could be that there were more expenses this year or those two years or it could be that we didn't raise our rates enough; it could be a number of factors"? Mr. Hancock said most likely it's a combination. Mr. Hancock then went over pages 34-38 which covered long-term debt for the general fund and water and sewer fund. Mr. Hancock said something happened this year that had never happened before, so he had them turn to page 43 of the audit. He said page 43 is a detailed schedule where they compile and report court fines, fees & assessments and surcharges involved with criminal tickets that have been written and processed through the municipal court. He said the State Treasurer's Office is always on the lookout for what they consider to be their share of those fines. He said one item in particular is the amount that's segregated out for victim's assistance. He said the amount that's levied for fines and fees for victim's assistance has very narrow uses and the City of Darlington has done a really good job of getting those funds and putting them to the narrow uses that they are allowed for. Mr. Hancock said this statement may not affect us because we are doing a good job of managing victim's funds, but he has another client that has been accumulating funds on a larger scale for several years and the money was sitting in the bank account and they had not used the funds for any victim's assistance purposes. He said the State Office of Victim's Advocacy came and took the money from the City because they had not spent it. Mr. Hancock said if you collect it, you have to spend it, if not they will make you forfeit it. He said he is not worried about that with the City of Darlington because Chief seems to be on top of this. Mr. Hancock asked Council if they had questions. Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Hancock if he's available for sit-down time? Mr. Hancock said he's available for sit-down time and he can be reached by phone. Mr. Garland told council they needed to vote to accept the audit. Councilman Milling made a motion to accept the 2018-2019 audit presentation that Mr. Hancock has given on behalf of the Brittingham Group. **Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Howard Nettles, Elaine**

Reed, John Milling, John Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.

B) APPROVAL 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the 2020 City Council Meeting schedule. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Howard Nettles, Elaine Reed, John Milling, John Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.

C) PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT LOAN FOR BOWEN MANOR

Mr. Lee Andrews said this is the loan they talked about in December to fund the playground at Bowen Manor for $41,162.83. The loan is coming from Pee Dee Electric through their outreach program. The City will pay it back at 1%. Mr. Andrews said we had to order the equipment before the end of last year in order to get the pricing that we got which was about 50% off. He said the equipment is here already and they are just waiting on the person to come and install it. Councilman Milling said the note form does not set a particular payment schedule. Mr. Andrews said Mr. Garland has the payment schedule and he thinks that payment is around $507.00 for seven years. Councilman Milling wanted to know how the payment has been amortized out. Mr. Garland said the 1% charge is on top of each monthly payment so they way it's going to break out is we'll take it out of the "athletic equipment" line item and it will come out of the regular budget. Mayor Boyd asked would this be split between the rec department and another department? Mr. Garland said, as of right now, it's just the recreation department for the rest of this budget year, but then when we get to the new budget year, we can split it. Councilman Milling asked if we have the $507 and Mr. Andrews said he thinks they can swing it for the rest of the budget cycle. Councilman Milling said this will be the same amount until the year 2026. Councilman Reed said, "But he was saying you've got enough money just to go to June of this year and from there, how would you pay for it"? Mr. Andrews said he would have to cut some things in his budget to make it work for the next six years. Councilwoman Reed said, "Because of our earlier conversation, can we just clear up the reason that we're doing this because we thought all this kind of stuff could be done through our hospitality". Mr. Andrews said, "We sold the property that we bought for the ballfields out there. He said, it's kind of landlocked that ballfield where it is and there's no clear path to get it involved with

Hampton Street unless we went way around. Councilwoman Baccus said, "when you say, "Way around" what do you mean"? "Are you saying you can't tie it into the trail"? She said I don't agree with that. I can't understand why you can't tie it in with the trail, but you're saying it's more feasible to do it this way"? Mr. Andrews said, "Yes ma'am". Councilman Milling said this eliminates any question of whether or not it's the proper use. Mr. Andrews said, "If we can afford it, it's a 1% loan and it's basically costing us about $450 for the loan and instead of taking a chance of paying $41,000 back because it was illegal, and we pay it out of this budget, we don't have to worry about it and we get a playground out there". Mr. Andrews said it's sitting at the rec department right now waiting to be installed. Mayor Boyd asked, "When do you expect for it to be installed"? Mr. Andrews said, "As soon as the installer is done where he is, he is coming to Darlington to put the playground equipment up". **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the playground equipment for Bowen Manor. Councilwoman Baccus seconded the motion. Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Howard Nettles, Elaine Reed, John Milling, John Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.** Councilman John Milling said, "We had approved benches, tables, etc…..Before he finished, Mr. Andrews said, "I'm glad you asked about that". He said they are going to start the install for Terrence Carraway on tomorrow and four benches will be put there, and two picnic tables will be put together. Hopefully, weather permitting they will get to the other park, if not this week hopefully by midweek next week. Councilwoman Baccus asked if there were four benches and tables at that park. Mr. Andrews said four benches, two tables. Councilwoman Baccus wanted to know when the one table and two benches would be installed at the pool? Mr. Andrews said they are going to wait until the pool opens back up before they put them back out.

D) HVAC BIDS FOR BALDWIN GYM & STANLEY GYM

Mr. Andrews said they have been a moisture issue at A.W. Stanley whenever it is humid outside and it's twice as humid inside and the floor gets slick so it's a safety issue as well. Mr. Andrews said they had someone from Kentco come in a take a look and they determined it was a HVAC issue. He said it's just not pushing enough over there right now with the couple of units they have. While that was going on, they lost one unit completely at the Harmon Baldwin Center. The case for the motor cracked and went everywhere. The unit on one end is working; the unit above the door at the office is making an awful noise. He said they took parts off the

unit that went completely out and fixed the two units for the time being, so they are in dire need of HVAC units at both places. Councilman Segars asked how old the units at Stanley Gym are. Mr. Andrews and Mr. Garland said they are ten years old and these were residential units that were put in. Mayor Curtis Boyd said, "So you have four units at one location and five at another location" and Mr. Andrews said, "Yes". He asked did they give a warranty for any period of time? Mr. Garland said it's 10-year warranty that they give on the compressor and the main parts and another five-year warranty on labor. Councilwoman Reed said, "But you're making a point that these are residential even though we have a warranty and it's ten years". Mr. Andrews said the ones we are getting are not residential. Mayor Curtis Boyd said, "I'm not one to put things on hold, but aren't we required to get three bids"? Mr. Andrews said this was the contractor that we got to come in to show us what the problem was, and this is the pricing that he gave, and he would be glad to go out and get two more bids to bring back to them. Mayor Boyd said, "But aren't we required to have three bids"? Mr. Andrews said, "Yes". **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve going after two more bids for the HVAC bids for Baldwin Gym and Stanley Gym. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion.** Councilman Milling asked Mr. Andrews if he has specifications that everybody's bidding on, they're know that they're going to have *"apples and apples".* Mr. Andrews said he has this information available for the new bidders. Councilman Milling told Mr. Andrews to let Kentco know that we are not divulging their information. **Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Howard Nettles, Elaine Reed, John Milling, John Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.**

E) NEW FLOOR BIDS FOR BALDWIN GYM & STANLEY GYM

Mr. Andrews said the flooring at A.W. Stanley was installed ten years ago and it has been well used. He said the flooring at Harmon Baldwin Gym is twenty-five years old. He said there are dead spots on the floor. They have tried to do pickleball at both gyms but are unable to because they ball won't bounce. Mr. Andrews said they got a quote for flooring and for both gyms with a 20-year warranty for approximately $125,000. He said they also want to buy wall pads to put in both gyms to make it safer and a volleyball expansion so they can start playing volleyball inside the gym at A.W. Stanley. Also included in this bid is a floor cleaner which is what they are supposed to be using on both floors now. He said it's what you see at Sam's Club. He said this is not one that you ride on top of, this is one that you walk behind and it's specifically for these types of sports floors. Mr.

Andrews said even if we don't get the new floors, he would suggest that we buy a floor cleaner for the gyms so they can take care of what they have a lot better than what they are doing. Councilman Segars asked if this type floor would be serviced better than a wood floor. Mr. Andrews said, "Yes, because on a wood floor you have to wear certain shoes and if they have a dance, they would have to buy a cover for both floors to make sure they are not damaging it. Councilman Milling said, "There's certain exclusions that does not include trimming doors, does not include major floor prep, leveling, cleaning, etc. Mr. Andrews said floors don't need doors right now. He said the foyer at A.W. Stanley might need attention when they do the floor because there is about a six-inch step down there. He said they can do a ramp down into the foyer to make it safer or if they just include coming on out with something else to make it even. Mayor Boyd asked if they have one anywhere else that they can look at. Mr. Andrews said this is the one they just put down in Wilmington, NC, but he has some pictures. He said they are out of Charlotte but he's sure he'll be glad to let them know. Mr. Andrews said they can take a road trip and go look at some floors. Mayor Boyd asked if $5,600 is for the cleaner package to be able to clean the floors. Mr. Andrews said, "Yes". Mr. Andrews said they would have to go out and find somebody else, but he was told to get prices. He said if they are going to bid it out, he would like a chance to bid it out and see if there's something competitive. Mr. Garland asked what the useful life of the current gym floors? Mr. Andrews said, "The Baldwin Gym is at the end of it's life cycle". The Stanley Gym floor still plays good, it just doesn't' look as good as it should and it's from wear and tear. He said he would hate to do one and not do the other so they can have everything for the next twenty-five years in great working condition. Councilman Milling asked if they have the funding to do this? Mr. Andrews said they have the funding, but he doesn't know if they would want to use the funding that he's thinking about. It would definitely fall under the hospitality tax with the Mayo Alumni using the gyms, basketball teams from all over play there. **Councilman Milling made a motion to authorize Mr. Andrews on behalf of the recreation department to get bids for the new floors at the Baldwin Gym and at the Stanley Gym. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Howard Nettles, Elaine Reed, John Milling, John Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.**

F) DARLINGTON MULTI-USE TRAIL MAP

Mayor Boyd said Councilman Gardner asked him two and a half years ago if he would be interested in helping him with a trail. Two and a half years later, they have it on the agenda. Mayor Boyd said Florence has a trail, Hartsville is working on a trail and to make sure everybody is clear that we need to get rid of the "cone City" and we need to fix our drains and repair our streets, and to bring businesses in we need to show that we can progress forth. He said in government there's certain money in certain pockets that you can only use for certain things. Mayor Boyd said, "I'm here because of this trail and I'm Mayor because of this trail". He said when you have a video to show what you are looking to try to do and then be able to walk the area and see a 1,400 -1,500-foot section, which is what they are asking for today to start the trail. Mayor Boyd said they have the funds to do and they have the funds to start it. He said Councilman Gardner has been asking for this for over four years and it's on the schedule today to see if we can get it started. Mayor Boyd said he was going to show a 5-minute long video which was recorded by drone. He said parts of it you can't get to and they don't have 100% permission on every little spot yet, but that's what they are working on. He said they have permissions for all of it but one section. This is approximately a 3-mile loop that would take us through town and that would be Phase 1 once they get it all done. He said that's not what they are asking for right now, just a small section of Phase one. Phase 1 will go through town and it's going to be partly on the sidewalk, partly through the woods, it will be cleaned up and carried around the town and once that's done, they will actually be able to spread out and it will be able to take you out past the Racetrack all the way over toward Walmart; toward Bowens Manor, toward that direction if we can finally get some easements there. Mayor Boyd said they don't have easements or 100% sure they can go that direction, but they are looking to see how many different directions they can take it out. He said the trails need to be connected to the playgrounds. As they go out, they will try to add more playgrounds, more activities, and more things for people to do so the residents will want to stay and want to come and live in our city. Mayor Boyd showed a video and was explaining areas as he went along. They are asking permission to start in the area on Cashua Street near Dedicated Community Bank to the old railroad bed which goes behind the Voter Registration office; going on behind the historical society on to the library which is where it would stop. He said parts of it goes over to Bristow property, then cut through the woods to Spring Street to Williamson Park (this part of the trail is already done); come out to the left of the newly renovated apartments on Cashua Street, cut through the woods and come up behind Diamond Hill Plywood cutting through their property

on the left and this will take you to the City's property where the railroad bed is which cuts back and takes you back to Hampton Street Park. Mayor Boyd asked Councilman Gardner if he wanted to tell Council anything. Councilman Gardner said, "That covered it all". He said, "Council today just wanted them to test the trail from Hampton Street to Fountain Street and the technical end of the property line which is directly butting up to the library and that's all this bid for today is just to do that one section". He said they are asking for a 10-foot-wide path that will be packed with crush and run and will pave it in the future if we get the rail trail grants and the other grants to help fund it. Mayor Boyd said they got two proposals, but one added extra stuff to it which they didn't really care for. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "So the video that you just showed, this trail is only going to run that area and that's the entire trail"? Councilman Gardner said, "The video that you just saw would be the first phase, but "No, that's not the entire trail". Councilwoman Baccus asked Councilman Gardner, "So how long are you estimating that first phase of the trail is going to take and how long to get it fixed and the cost"? Councilman Gardner said, I don't have a cost or time estimate because I haven't gotten permission from Council to go forward with it, so I wouldn't have those answers". He said they have three property owners that they've got to get permission from but everybody else has said they are ok with it. Councilman Gardner said, "We would have to get the properties surveyed and an actual trail line laid out". Councilwoman Baccus said, "So the area that you just showed on this video showed this trail running strictly through North Darlington. Why there is nothing in South Darlington included in this million-dollar trail"? Mayor Boyd said, "This is the first phase that connects it to Hampton Street Park. The trail that we're asking for at this moment is approximately 1,400 feet and will cost approximately $10,000. He said a lot of this trail that we just showed you is already done because it connects to Williamson Park. He said that's the three-mile loop, but they are not asking to do the whole trail at this moment. To start with they want to show people what they are planning on doing. Their ultimate goal is to try and figure out a way to get it all the way to Bowen Manor, all the way to Walmart, back down Smith Avenue; back over to the other side if the Race Track down by May Flower where the trail would actually connect the hometown. Mayor Boyd said Phase 1 is only 1,400 feet. He said once they get that, they will be working on getting a grant, so we don't have to spend money out of hospitality tax funds. If we have to spend money out hospitality tax funds, but if we have to spend hospitality tax funds then we can try to get this phase done and start working on the next phase and get other companies to start helping us with trying to

progress it out into the whole town. Mr. John Gardner spoke out and said, I want to point out one thing. Back when I was on the Highway Commission thirty-five years ago, they used highway safety funds to put in the sidewalk from the top of Cashua out to the Country Club". He said it is used by the entire community. Mr. Gardner said that 1,400 feet connects to probably ten miles of sidewalk going through the entire town. He said people like to walk and walk a long distance. That one section connects to so many miles of already done sidewalk. Mayor Boyd said, "And the purpose of starting here, his understanding was, there's an actual railroad bed there so they are trying to start to the bed and be able to move out". Ms. Jannie Lathan spoke from the audience and asked, "Isn't there a public hearing required for a project like this"? Mayor Boyd said, "No ma'am". Ms. Lathan said, "I think so". Ms. Lathan then asked, "Have we gotten three bids that's required"? Mayor Boyd said, "We've gotten two bids so far". Ms. Lathan asked if we were going to get three and Mayor Boyd said, "yes ma'am". Ms. Glady Jules spoke from the audience and asked, "So this is an open forum meeting"? She said, "This is not being conducted like regular city council meeting, you just raise your hand and talk"? Mayor Boyd said, "Until I get too many, yes ma'am". He said if you have a question, I'll be glad to take it. Councilwoman Baccus said, I'm going to say this and I'm going to leave it alone until I see a showing of where this trail is going to go through S. Darlington because if we're spending millions of dollars of taxpayers money and grants that we have to match and whatever the case may be, then it should affect all citizens and it should go somewhere through S. Darlington. Councilman Gardner said, "Half of the circle in the first phase is all in your district". He said, "We've got a couple of other lines going through your district and if you'd like to help us out with the African American Cemetery beside the city property, they can access S. Darlington". Councilwoman Baccus said the diagram showed Diamond Hill and they were five feet from Bowen Manor. Mayor Boyd said that was phase 1 and that he and Councilman Gardner drove to Bowen Manor to figure out a way to get to the property. Councilwoman Baccus said it will be 10 or 15 years…Mayor Boyd interjected and said, "No ma'am. In the old process, yes ma'am. Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve 1,400 feet, and the $10,000 bid for the trail. Mayor Boyd said we will get a third bid before we do anything. Councilman Milling said, "I guess what we would be approving at this time would be a third bid for the 1,400 feet". Councilman Bryant Gardner amended his motion to approve a third bid for the Darlington Multi-Use Trail map for the 1,400-foot trail. Councilman Milling seconded the motion. **Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Sheila**

Baccus, Howard Nettles, Elaine Reed, John Milling, John Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.

DISCUSSION OF CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING USE AS GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HEADQUARTERS (HOSPITALITY FUNDS

Mrs. Anna Dewitt said they were approached by the City for the Chamber of Commerce about a proposal to relocate into the white house where Mr. Garland's office is in order to open up space on the Square for new businesses. Mrs. Dewitt said she thinks the City's thought process is, if the Chamber moves into the white house, then they will be able to use hospitality tax funds to fix the white house. She said the Chamber is not doing a formal statement because they have not gotten anything in writing from the City. She said Mr. Garland and Mayor Boyd would have to make the proposal to the Chamber. Mayor Boyd told Mrs. Dewitt from their meeting the other day, you and Nancy were going to discuss with the Board if they were willing to do this and bring it to Council. Mrs. Dewitt said they will entertain a proposal in writing from the City. Mayor Boyd asked Council if they had any discussion on this. Councilman Milling asked, "Do we have anything to discuss at this point and time"? Councilman Milling said, they've got to have Council as a meeting, get some proposal sent to us". Mrs. Dewitt said, "They, as the Chamber cannot do anything until they are given something in writing from the City". Councilwoman Reed asked, "But is this something the Chamber want"? Mrs. Dewitt said, "No ma'am. This is something that we were approached by the City, by Mr. Garland. Councilwoman Reed said, "See, we didn't know anything about that". Ms. Harriett Hobbs spoke up and said she can comment on this. Ms. Hobbs said the Executive Committee met with her this week and apparently Anna, Mayor Boyd, Howard Garland and Nancy Matthews met earlier this week and have come up with a proposal to use hospitality funds to move the Chamber of Commerce into the Admin Building. She said the executive committee said they would be willing to entertain such a proposal in writing and then the Chamber of Commerce Executive committee would then respond back in writing. Ms. Hobbs said they were the ones that were approached and apparently, it's for hospitality funds to be sued to fix the Admin Building. Councilman Milling said, "You know more than I do". Councilman Milling said, "We need a presentation from Mr. Garland". Ms. Hobbs said, "They didn't approach me, they approached Anna, Mr. Garland and Mayor Boyd and they were the three that were in the discussions. Councilman Milling said, "My position is if the City is going to act on

something and make a proposal to you, it needs to be presented to City Council and the Mayor prior to an agenda item where they are discussing something that they don't have any information on. **Councilman Milling made a motion to table Item 9G until the City receives a report from the City Administration as to this proposed use, funding, space, etc. as to how it would be proposed that it be presented to the Chamber. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion.** Mayor Boyd said the purpose of them putting this on the agenda was to bring it to everybody's attention for them to discuss. Councilman Milling said, "We don't have anything to discuss". Councilwoman Reed said, "What I'm getting out of it is it's a proposal to try to see how we can fix up the Admin Building. And you're going to another City department to solve a problem and you're not giving us any input here, you've already decided how you want this building done". Councilwoman Reed said, "What I'm understanding is the reason for this is for you to be able to repair the admin building using hospitality money and you're using the Chamber so you can do it". Councilman Milling said right now there's a motion to table Item 9G. Mayor Boyd wanted to give Mr. Garland a chance to explain. Mr. Garland said last summer the Chamber building had mold issues for about two to three months and an offer was made at that time to the Chamber for them to use part of the admin building as their headquarters until they got the mold issue fixed. Mr. Garland said out of that came the idea of them using the conference room next to his office or possibly upstairs. He said if they had DDRA and the Chamber in one building they could have a visitor's center which they could promote on I-95 and help draw people into one place. **Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Howard Nettles, Elaine Reed, John Milling, John Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.**

RECEIVE AS INFORMATION (DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS (GIVEN IN PERSON)

Council reports were given in person and they gave a summary of what was included in their handwritten reports. Council had an opportunity to ask them questions.

Ms. Jonna Carter gave her report for the Municipal Court Office. (No questions asked)

Ms. Karen Carroll gave her report for the Street & Sanitation Departments. Mayor Boyd said there were three locations that had mattresses and tv's and wanted to know the policy on that. Ms. Carroll said, "Code says that we

pick up tree limbs, grass cuttings and leaves. She said the City does not pick up furniture and she convey that to the citizens.

Police Chief Kelvin Washington & Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh. Chief Washington said Council has a copy of his handwritten report and he would entertain any questions. Mayor Boyd asked about the number of offenses for speeding and what the policy is for inspecting fire extinguishers, emergency lighting, etc. throughout the town. Mayor Boyd said in other area that he has businesses, they come in each year and inspect the facility. Mayor Boyd asked if we do annual inspections each year. Chief Cavanaugh said, "Yes, they have two fulltime Fire Marshalls (He and Assistant Chief Bailey) and they try their best to get to every business every year. He said they send some of their staff into different store and different businesses and do what they call "company inspections" and they preplan every business in town. Chief Cavanaugh said they look for emergency lighting and fire extinguishers and the biggest thing they look for is clearance around panel boxes and people using excessive power strips or extension cords.

Codes Enforcement Officer Mr. Alex Gainey went over his handout and told Council about some of the flooded areas that they worked on.

Recreation Department Head Mr. Lee Andrews went over his department report.

W&S Superintendent Mr. Freddie Kinsaul said as far as leaks, they had a leak at a six-inch water main on Pearl Street and other than that, there were a few minor issues. Mr. Kinsaul said this gave them an opportunity to work on Circle Drive fire hydrant. He said whoever put it together originally, they ran three pipes together at that fire hydrant. Last Thursday they put a new fire hydrant in. They did a repair on the one that was broken on the Square. Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Kinsaul if he's already worked on a rate study comparing our rates to others? Mr. Kinsaul said he's looked at it, but we've got to program what you want to do. Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Kinsaul if he can get a list of the fire hydrants that are broken? Mr. Kinsaul said a hydrant on Broad Street is broken and one on Main Street is broken. Mr. Kinsaul said he'll have to get a list from Chief Cavanaugh of the ones that are not broken, but they are the old two-prong fire hydrants. Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Kinsaul if he could get a list by next month of how many are broken? Mr. Kinsaul said as far as physically broken, there's only two. Councilman Gardner said his understanding is, the Fire Chief already has that list. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So, do you have a plan now or working on a

plan to fix the underground leaks that we're having and permanently solve the problem"? Mr. Kinsaul said, If the council and Mayor would give him money, we can replace the pipes". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Do you have an estimate of what it's going to cost to fix the ones that we know that's broken that's leaking"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "I'm not trying to be smart, but that's probably every line in Darlington that has had a leak on it". Councilwoman Reed said she was listening when Alex gave his report and he's mapping areas as he goes along. Mr. Kinsaul said Circle Drive has three pipes going to the hydrant, but it only showed one. He said when you dig, that's the true locate. Councilwoman Reed said, "We're doing so much digging and we've got so many cones all over the City. Do we have some kind of plan that we're putting together to help us be able to identify what's along the line"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "Not with GPS". He said they've got to locate the lines in the ground and GPS. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So, if I remember maybe eight or nine months ago, Councilman Milling wasn't it you that said or asked that we look at getting a GPS System in place and the cost of it so we can start mapping out all of these things, so we'll know where everything is at"? Mr. Kinsaul said we can get an estimate, but you've got to have an engineer, or GPS mapper, your software and computer. Councilwoman Baccus said, "I think we asked that you check into that and get us a cost on it, so we'll know where we're going with this". Mr. Kinsaul said we discussed this in a budget meeting. Councilwoman Reed asked Mr. Kinsaul what his suggestions were as to what we can do and if the only way to resolve this is when we have a problem. In other words, is there a way for us to be proactive. Mr. Kinsaul said the only way to be proactive is to replace the pipe. Councilman Milling asked if we can do a study to determine what needs to be replaced because it sounds like everything needs to be replaced. Mr. Kinsaul said Russell Street is probably one of the ones that's undersized. He said there's a small line that runs down Russell, Ward and part of Exchange Streets. Councilman Milling asked if anybody has taken a look to identify other areas and what it's going to cost to replace a one-inch line or whatever is an acceptable size? Mr. Kinsaul said the only way to do it is to engineer toward grants. Councilman Milling said we need to develop a list of priorities. Mr. Kinsaul said they are working on that now. Councilman Milling asked when would they see the list of priorities? Mr. Kinsaul said by the time we start the budget workshops. Councilman Milling said if we start the budget workshop without knowing what the priorities are, how are we going to budget for it"? Councilman Milling said it would be good to have some of that before we begin discussions. Mayor Boyd asked, "Does Davis & Brown have a

mapping system that we can use"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "Yes they can contract". Mayor Boyd said he would like to see a list of all fire hydrants, all the water lines in priority and possibly have it by next month.

For Info Only

Mr. Garland said on Thursday January 16, 2020 at 6:00 PM there will be a workshop for Mayor and Council with Mr. Charlie Barrineau who is from the Municipal Association. Mr. Barrineau will make a presentation on "Now I've Been Elected, What's Next".

Mr. Garland said he just put out a request for qualifications for engineering for the sewer lift station project which includes lift stations at Verizon, Joe Louis Blvd., the old waste treatment plant on Old Florence Highway and the Hampton Street Plant. They will open bids on Monday February 3, 2020 at 10:00 AM. Mr. Garland said they need two Councilmembers to help them score the projects along with him and Mr. Kinsaul.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – OPTION TO PURCHASE LAND FOR BALLFIELDS (THE CITY OF DARLINGTON WILL VOTE AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to go into executive session at 8:55 Pm to discuss option to purchase land for ballfields. Mayor Boyd said he wanted to show the video of the property they were going to be discussing in executive session to the audience. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. (5-minute break)

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to go out of executive session at 9:35 PM. Councilman Milling seconded the motion.

Councilman Milling made a motion that the City of Darlington enter into an option agreement with Mr. Olin Kirven to purchase 111 acres of land which he owns at 1755 Harry Byrd Highway; Darlington County Tax Parcel 126-00-02-063. This option will contain as contingencies that we get free and clear title to the property and we have the ability to enter into agreements with Darlington County, NASCAR, Darlington Raceway and the Ramsey Family to obtain a strip of land that would be attached to the 111 acres and go back to the City Limits so that this piece of property would become City property within the city limits of Darlington and not

property owned by the City outside of the city limits of Darlington; and that we do sufficient geological and other surveys to ensure that we have out of the 111 acres along with another piece of property some 70 acres of buildable land to use for recreational fields for a purchase price of $600,000. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. **Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Howard Nettles, Elaine Reed, John Milling, John Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.**

Councilman Milling made a motion that the City enter into an option to purchase from Keith Evans at 1785 Harry Byrd Highway Parcels 126-00-02-091 and 126-00-02-092 for the sum of $55,000. Property is adjacent to the first tract that was described under the same terms and conditions with these exceptions that it has to have clear title that we can get annexed into the City and that there is suitable land in combination with the 111 acres and between the two that we can get 70 acres of buildable land for recreational facilities. Councilman Segars seconded the motion. **Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Howard Nettles, Elaine Reed, John Milling, John Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.**

Councilman Milling proposed that in connection with the offer to Mr. Kirven in connection with the option, that we propose a $2,500 option price and for Mr. Evans a $1,000 option price. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. **Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Howard Nettles, Elaine Reed, John Milling, John Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.**

REMINDERS

January 20, 2020 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – All City Office Closed
February 11, 2020 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, the meeting adjourned at 9:41 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer