CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY –FEBRUARY 11, 2020

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor-Elect Curtis Boyd, Councilpersons: John Segars, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed, 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. Jonna Carter, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Mrs. Rosena James, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mrs. Anna DeWitt, Ms. Gloria Hines, Mr. Ernest Boston, Mr. Lee Andrews, Ms. Nancy Matthews, Mrs. Joyce Thomas, Mr. Henry & Mrs. Annie Chapman, and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Prayer for the meeting was led by Reverend Robbie Short, Pastor of Lee Street Church of God which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, Seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2020 Council Meeting. Mayor Boyd and Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Baccus, Reed, Milling and Segars voted in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for Tuesday February 11, 2020, which was seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed. 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 presented its 2019 Member of the Year Award to Timmy & Nancy Huntley and the Darlington Country Club at the Chamber's Annual Banquet last week. The DDRA is collaborating with Joe's Grill with its first "Chili Championship & Car Show on Saturday, March 7, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Cook teams will vie for a championship title belt and the proceeds will go to the Darlington Fire Department. Tasting wristbands can be purchased that morning at Joe's Grill and the people will choose the champion. Mrs. Rock said their regular lineup of events starts in April with the Annual DDRA Golf Tournament on Wednesday April 8th at Darlington Country Club followed by "The Taste of Darlington" on Thursday April 23rd at Darlington Raceway. The DDRA Board has committed to another partnership with Community Broadcasters for a larger spring event (the Darlington Family Fest) on Saturday June 6, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Darlington Family Fest will include Food Trucks, crafts, beer and wine vendors, Live music by Felonious Funk and a Kids Zone. Admission will be $5.00. PDRTA will provide rides to the track from downtown and a few other locations "free" for those who want to ride. Proceeds will go toward business incentive program. Mrs. Rock said they will continue to have their "Bringing Downtown Alive" free concerts kicking off the season with a Karaoke Party on Thursday May 7th. They will have a Race Week Party on Friday September 4, 2020 and a fall concert on Thursday October 22, 2020. All of these events will be held on Liberty Lane & Pearl Street. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA invites businesses to breakfast each month at 8:00 AM on February 26th as well as the last Wednesday of the month at Takis Diner for businesses to network and learn about the DDRA programs and give feedback for future projects. There is no cost for members and a nominal donation of $5.00 per person for all others for their meal. These meetings will continue through October. 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.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – MS. NANCY MATTHEWS

Ms. Matthews said the Chamber just celebrated their Annual Awards and Celebration on February 6, 2020 at the Country Club. She said they collaborated with the DDRA to present the DDRA Award to Nancy & Timmy Huntley. She said they also collaborated with the Garden Club and they presented their "Gardner of the Year" award to Ms. Laura Burns. She said it was a great event and they also had a transition in Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship. Ms. Matthews said they are working on "Freedom Fest". The details are being ironed out this week and they will get more information to them once they have determined all of that. Ms. Matthews said the following citizens received awards at the Chamber Banquet: Bobby Kilgo, Todd Hardee, Kelly Byrd, Cole Davis of Mayo High School, The Veterans Memorial Park, Chief Jim Stone & Bobby James.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL (5 MINUTES PER PERSON)

Ms. Gwen Marcus said she lives at 103 Reid Street and her first concern is the mediocre service that they are receiving as residents of the City of Darlington. She said on several occasions she had to call Howard Garland to resolve the trash problem and the unkept grass on the vacant lots on her block. She said someone is constantly dumping trash in front a vacant lot on the street. She told them if they would consider a closed circuit monitor in front of it, they will catch who's doing it. She said the trash problems can lead to rodent problems. Ms. Marcus said she had a personal experience a couple of years ago with her neighbor who hoarded a lot of trash and vacant cars in her back yard and this caused big, black rats in their yard. She said when you are hoarding, keeping trash and vacant cars in your backyard there's a possibility of a rodent infestation in the neighborhood. She said she has passed several residents that have vacant cars in their backyards, and it looks like a garage, but it's not and something needs to be addressed regarding that. Ms. Marcus said the fees that The City of Darlington charges for sanitation per home; the capital fees and stormwater fee, is an additional $30.00 attached to her water bill. She said the green cans are only emptied four times a month, the blue cans twice a month and the leaves are picked up seasonal. Ms. Marcus said, "The Manager made mention at the last meeting what the department will pick up, but what about the things that they don't pick up"? "Are they supposed to linger on the corners of our streets for months or years later"? She said there was no mention of a time limit. Ms. Marcus said her second concern is the care of the storm drain. She said her house is in front of the storm drain on Reid Street. She said she had to call the DOT to ask them to cut the grass around the drain. She said if they will

consider a regular maintenance schedule instead of every now and then, perhaps they wouldn't be the buildup of the waters that's happening on her block. She said if they don't change the drainage system, sinkholes may soon develop. Ms. Marcus said lastly, "Do I have to continue calling our City Manager, and/or our sanitation about the trash or do they just pick it up"? "Do I have to keep calling and going to DOT about the grass around the drains"? She said there has to be responsibility and accountability for what's not getting done for our residents. She said we need to consider making some changes to the current ordinances so everyone in the City can benefit. Mayor Boyd asked her if her house was the one that has the three mattresses in front of it? Ms. Marcus said the one that was across the street. Ms. Marcus told Mayor Boyd she appreciates what he did for her. Mayor Boyd said we will definitely look into all that and it's on his list.

Ms. Jannie Lathan said, "Good evening Mayor, Council, Gloria and Howard. Mayor Boyd you posted on Facebook, and I quote, "You sir (referring to the Honorable Congressman Jim Clyburn) were an embarrassment to South Carolina last night". As a South Carolinian, I take exception to your Facebook post. Jim Clyburn, a native South Carolinian, a two-time majority whip, who is currently serving his 14th term as our Representative in the United States Congress, has been and is an honorable public servant, and never was, nor is he now an embarrassment to me and other South Carolinians. You however, embarrassed me and may other citizens of our City, because you represent all of us as our Mayor. Therefore, I respectfully request that you apologize to Congressman Clyburn and to all the citizens of Darlington, and refrain from making these types of Facebook posts in the future. She said, "Your Facebook posts goes viral; they don't stay within the limits of Darlington, they are seen throughout the world". Ms. Lathan also asked that this request be entered as past of the public record. Councilman Milling said, "Ms. Lathan you were present when I believe Mayor Gloria Hines proposed and we agreed that they five-minute point that we have for citizens to address Council was not to be utilized as a personal attack on any member of Council, the Mayor or anyone of that nature, so I didn't want to interrupt you until after you had spoken but we had reached an agreement while Mayor Hines (Mayor Boyd was not part of that). Councilman Milling said that's what we agreed would be how we would handle it. We would not use these five-minute sessions on for personal attacks on anyone. Councilman Milling said, "It appeared that it became a problem or sometimes it would become a problem during the last four years and so we made the statement we wouldn't do that, so I'm

just bringing that to everyone's attention". Ms. Lathan said, "With all due respect Councilman I did not see this as a personal attack and Mayor if you view this as a personal attack I personally and sincerely apologize. Ms. Lathan said, "I see this simply as a request. I get phone calls, this is where we live and what our elected officials say and put out on Facebook affects all of us, so I saw this as a simple request. Ms. Lathan told Mayor Boyd, "If I have offended you in any way, truly, that was not my intent. My intent was to make a sincere request.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DARLINGTON MULTI-USE TRAIL BIDS Mayor Boyd said they got two bids in last month and were waiting on a third bid. Mayor Boyd said they received a bid from Carolina Grading & Excavation for $10,100; Evans Pavement for $33,800 and a bid from Sturkie Land Clearing for $17,100 included lighting and other items we were not asking for. The total amount of $8,650 for the first four items (Brush cutting/tree removal, walk boards, rock and drain tile) listed is all that we are asking for. Mayor Boyd said the contractor included the lighting and other items because it was easier to do just in case we wanted to add lighting. He said he thinks they are going to try to get Duke Energy to put lights in. Councilman Milling asked if Carolina Grading & Excavation bid have any timbers? Mayor Boyd said his $10,100 bid included timbers and gravel. Councilwoman Baccus asked if this bid was for the 1,400 feet. Mayor Boyd said, "Yes ma'am, starting at the back of Cashua Street and ends at Fountain Street at the back of the library. Councilwoman Baccus said she went by and looked at that today and that's an interesting section back there. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "So the section where there's a ditch, is there going to be a bridge over that"? Mayor Boyd said that's where the drain is. He said he gave the option for a bridge or a drain. Mayor Boyd said the bridge would be $1,600, but with a drain he would put the pipe in and cover it up. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So we started out at approximately $10,000 for that section, right"? Mayor Boyd said, "$8,650, yes ma'am". Councilwoman Baccus said, "I mean at the last council meeting". Councilwoman Reed said, "We're less". Councilwoman Baccus said, "No you're not, because by the time you put the bridge in over that section". Mayor Boyd said, "There won't be a bridge, that's including the drain. They are going to put the drain pipe in there and cover it up". Mayor Boyd said if you put a bridge there, eventually it will deteriorate and have to be replaced. Councilwoman Reed asked, "So you want the drain instead of the bridge"? Mayor Boyd said, "Yes ma'am". Councilwoman Baccus asked, "And then you're going to put

gravel or rocks or something"? Mayor Boyd said, "Yes ma'am". Councilman Segars asked, "Do we have any kind of experience with any of these people that made these quotes"? Mayor Boyd said, "I do with Sam Evans and with Sturkie Demolition". Councilman Segars said, "Favorably, I hope" and Mayor Boyd said, "Yes Sir". Councilwoman Baccus said, "So over on the right-hand side where this thing falls off about fifty feet, we're not going to fence that in because that's a hazard"? Mayor Boyd said, "That will be a suggestion next to get that fenced in". Councilman Gardner said, I'm sure I can agree with you, but we can do that in house. You see how the two parks were done. Our recreation department was able to put fencing in if that's a concern of yours. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So if you've got kids that decide to run through that area or play in that area, you don't think that's a hazard"? Councilman Gardner said, "No ma'am not necessarily more than a hazard of walking by a street or walking by any other area". Councilwoman Baccus said, "I think it's a hazard". Councilman Gardner said, "We can fence it off if that's a concern of yours". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Something needs to be done because that's a long drop considering there are kids running around in that area". Mayor Boyd said, Lee can do the same thing that they did at the park and put a fence up". **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to accept Sturkie Land Clearing bid of the first four items (Brush cutting/Tree Removal, Walk Boards, Rock and Drain Tile) for $8,650. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Mayor Boyd and Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Baccus, Reed, Milling and Segars voted in favor of the motion.**

NEW BUSINESS

A) MAYOR'S AWARD – MAYOR CURTIS BOYD Mayor Boyd said he promised that when he became Mayor, he would donate his funds back. He said the purpose of him doing this publicly is so they can see where his money is going back to help people in Darlington. Mayor Boyd introduced Mr. Frazier who teaches boxing at A.W. Stanley for five years. Mayor Boyd said he had the opportunity to visit one of the fights because he didn't realize this was going on. He said on May 16th they will have an exhibition coming up. Mayor Boyd said Mr. Frazier was the first recipient and he gave them six bags and they also wanted a big 7' x 10' mirror for A.W. Stanley. Mr. Frazier said he doesn't charge anything, but USA Boxing charges $70 a year which covers the insurance. Mayor Boyd said Mrs. Patsy Hathcock is not here tonight, but she received mirrors also for her wall where she teaches dance because hers were broken. Mr. Frazier said on May 16th they will

have "Showdown in the Pee Dee". He said this is the fourth event that they are having here in Darlington. They have a special guest WBA Heavyweight Champion Ray Mercer. Mr. Frazier said he has over sixteen students that he works with and he doesn't charge anything for his services. He said he is very strict in his training and if the children don't do good in school, they cannot train. Mr. Mercer told Council he would like their support on May 16th. General Admission is $10.00. VIP is $15.00. They will have ringside tables set up that they are selling for $500.00 a table that includes 6 seats. You have to have your wristband or lanyard on for the seats and this includes catering (from Bizzell's in Hartsville) and you'll have first up for photo op with Mr. Mercer.

B) PEE DEE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – MS. LINDSAY PRIVETTE Ms. Privette said she is here to reintroduce them to the Pee Dee Council of Governments because she has met several of them individually but not as a group. She said she is here to explain the grant portion of what they do. Ms. Privette said they have several services that they offer to the six county Pee Dee region, but one of the ones that she does is grant administration. Ms. Privette said they are located on Highway 52 near the Farmers Market covering Florence, Darlington, Dillon, Chesterfield, Marion and Marlboro counties. She said one of the reasons they exist is to help cities and counties to supplement what you may not have the capacity to hire staff full time to do; things that you don't need people on staff all the time for such as writing a grant or administering a grant which would cost a fortune. She said they are funded by the County government and also through federal and state grants. She said the two programs they primarily focus on are Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The focus of this grant is to help benefit low- and moderate-income people, to help revitalize neighborhoods, to clean up downtowns that have issues with dilapidated buildings and they also focus on infrastructure improvements (water, sewer). Ms. Privette said the City has had several CDBG grants in the past, but she has not done CDBG for several years. Ms. Privette said she has been doing Economic Development Administration Grants which is typically larger awards. She said you usually get an award like this if you have an industry that's coming into town or expanding. She said EDA is focused on job creation and investment. Ms. Privette the Pee Dee COG is funded through federal, state grants and or county so they have two planning grants that fund their grant writing operations, so they don't charge anything for writing their grants. She said if a town wants to put in a grant with them, they talk about the best ways to approach it according to what the project is.

Ms. Lindsay said they go through all the steps that need to be done such as public hearings, income surveys which require going door-to-door in certain neighborhoods. She said they help with all those steps, write the grant, submit it and then if it's funded, they help them see it through start to finish. If it's not funded, they will try to figure out what happened and try harder the next time. Ms. Privette said, "The way we actually do get paid is once the grant is awarded there is a portion of the award in there that comes to us to pay for our services". She said CDBG grants have a 10% match for the award so the City would have to come up with 10% or find another source. There are lots of grants that work together. EDA grants require a 20% match for the award. Councilman Gardner asked, "Those are the only two that you all currently write"? Ms. Privette said those are the only two they write. She said because they work in lots of different areas, they are aware of lots of different grants and they can usually point us into the direction of how to go after other grants. She said they do other things for set fees and she's sure she can have a conversation with their Director about what else they can do, but typically they just administer grants. Councilman Nettles said, "With regards to the matching 10% or 20% and talking about where it comes from, can it be the private sector, does it matter"? Ms. Privette said it can come from anywhere except you cannot match federal dollars with federal dollars.

C) APPROVAL ENGINEER FOR EDA/RIA SEWER LIFE STATIONS GRANT

Ms. Privette said on January 3, 2020 the Pee Dee Council of Governments on behalf of Darlington City posted requests for proposals for firms to perform design engineering, permitting, and construction administration for upgrading four (4) primary sewer pump station in the South Darlington area. Nineteen firms requested bid packets, two firms requested site visits to the project site (one visit conducted by Lindsay Privette and the other by Howard Garland). She said two sealed proposals were received during the time the RFP was advertised. The bids were opened on February 3, 2020 at 10 a.m. at City of Darlington. A review committee compromised of one city council member and three city staff reviewed and rated the two proposals using the attached score sheets. Ms. Lindsay tallied score sheets and determined that Davis & Brown received the highest score. She said Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments recommends that a contract for Engineering Design, Permitting and Construction Administration be awarded to Davis & Brown for $138,000. Mr. Garland said Hanna Engineering was the other proposal and their bid for basic engineering

services was $163,500. Councilman Milling asked if we would be approving the engineering costs tonight? Ms. Privette said, "Yes and it does have to be approved by EDA before the City can officially enter into any contract". Councilman Milling asked Ms. Privette is she would be handling that approval and she said "yes". **Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the proposal by Davis & Brown Engineering on the South Darlington pumps stations for an engineering cost of $138,000. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Mayor Boyd and Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Baccus, Reed, Milling and Segars voted in favor of the motion.**

D) UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU PRESENTATION – RON WILLIAMS

Mr. Garland said Mr. Ron Williams made a presentation to Darlington County last week at their County Council meeting about Darlington County being undercounted in the 2010 Census. Mr. Garland said most folks on Council know our population in Darlington City had decreased from around 8,000 in 1980 to just above 6, 000 in 2020. Mr. Garland said after having a conversation with County Administrator Mr. Charles Stewart and Mr. Williams, the County has put together a "Complete Count Committee" which is going to come up with some strategies to make sure everyone is counted in Darlington County and the City of Darlington and other municipalities on Darlington County. The County has asked for one representative from City of Darlington to serve on the committee. They will be meeting at 10:00 a.m. on March 4, 2020 at the Library. Councilman Howard Nettles volunteered to serve on the committee.

E) FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2020-01 PROPERTY PURCHASE HIGHWAY 151 OLIN KIRVEN (126-00-02-063) 116 ACRES $600,000 FOR BALLFIELDS

Councilman Milling said he is going to offer an amendment to the ordinance one First Reading. Councilman Milling said, "When we entered into the option, we had certain contingencies that were a part of our option with Mr. Kirven that are not present in the ordinance and I just think it would be best for continuity to have those same contingencies to be a part of the First Reading of the ordinance. Mayor Boyd asked, "Which were that the property would have a clear title? Councilman Milling said, "No Sir, we're pretty sure that we got it, but that we'll be able to annex, those types of things". Mayor Boyd said the seventy (70) acres has been looked at by Ryan Magnus as being seventy plus acres

there. He said the clear title will be for sure by Kevin. Councilman Milling said, "I would like for us also to be able to have the language in there that at this time anyhow, that we'll be able to negotiate with the three intervening property owners so that we can have this property annexed into the City of Darlington". Mayor Boyd asked, "As in which pieces"? Councilman Milling said, "Well, we were negotiating with NASCAR, Darlington County and the Ramsey Family to get access across their property either a donation of certain land or an easement, etc. Probably a donation or very low cost so that we can annex all of those properties so that the 111 acres that we were purchasing from Mr. Kirven could become a part of the City. Mayor Boyd said he and Mr. Etheridge has spoken with all three. Mr. Etheridge said they have spoken primarily with the County and not to go too far into negotiations.....Councilman Milling said, "I just think at this time it would be good to have that same language as a part of the ordinance and if we want to back off at some point, we can back off at some point". Councilman Milling said, "As an aside, I would like for us to consider asking Ben Zeigler, who is our bond counsel for the hospitality bond, to come and make a presentation to us so that we have a clear understanding as to what we would be able to use funds for if we annex it into the city and what restrictions may exist if we just took it and purchased it but it were not annexed so that any time we make that final decision, if we have to, we have a clear understanding". Councilwoman Reed said, "Ok
so, what you're asking is that we include in this ordinance, besides the purchase of the property, but the conditions or the arrangements regarding the other three properties. What other three"? Councilman Milling said, "We're going to have to go across NASCAR, the county property and the Ramsey property". Councilwoman Reed asked, "Which part is county"? Councilman Milling said, "The county owns a block of land next to the 111 acres. The Ramsey Family owns a block of land between the county property and the racetrack and then NASCAR owns it". Councilwoman Reed said, "So at this point because I was thinking that Kirven property all that was in the County, but what you are saying this separate piece that's own by the County"? Councilman Milling said, "It is, but what I am proposing is the same language that was in the option that we be able to annex the Kirven property without getting property belonging currently to NASCAR, County and Ramsey Family so that we can have all those strips of land annexed into the City as well as the 111 acres belonging to Kirven; so that we have a piece of property that's in the city limits and not simply owned by the city outside of the city limits. Mr. Kevin Etheridge asked Councilman Milling if he was referring to the verbiage. Councilman Milling

said, "Yes, the verbiage that we put into the option into ordinance". Councilman Gardner said, "Assuming Ben Ziegler comes and suggest that whether the property is in the city or out of the city there's no development issues minus the accommodations tax, then would your objection still be there if we couldn't get property annexed into the city"? Councilman Milling said, "The thing we would do is we'd have the same language in the ordinance now and then if we get to the second reading on it and Mr. Ziegler has told us what we can or cannot do with the money whether it's annexed or unannexed that we would at least have a full understanding and that we can act appropriately as to whether we determine (Council determines) whether or not it wants to buy even if we can't annex it or only wants to buy it if we can annex it". Council Gardner said, "Understood. I'm interested in your interest. Do you care if it's in the city vs out of the city, obviously we all want it in the city"? Councilman Milling said, "Yes, I have an interest in it being the city and I want to know what Mr. Ziegler says about it. The use of the money generated from it if it's not in the City ad then we'll know what we're dealing with". Councilman Milling said, "I would need a second to my motion to amend the ordinance that was presented to us in the packet". **Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. Mayor Boyd and Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Baccus, Reed, Milling and Segars voted in favor of the motion.**

F) NAMING OF MUNICIPAL COURTROOM

Councilman Milling said we had the opportunity to have Daniel B. Causey, III serve as the Municipal Judge for the City of Darlington for thirty (30) years. Councilman Milling said he had the good pleasure of practicing with Judge Causey for forty plus years. He said he was a zealous advocate for his clients, he was a worthy opponent and he handled the business of the City for a period of thirty years. He was faithful in the attendance to his duties, he loved the City of Darlington and always wanted to do what was best. Councilman Milling quoted Micah 3:6 and he said he thinks that's what Dan tried to fulfill during his 30 years as City Judge. **Councilman Milling made a motion that the City honor his memory by naming this courtroom as the Daniel B. Causey, III Courtroom. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Mayor Boyd and Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Baccus, Reed, Milling and Segars voted in favor of the motion.**

G. BOARDS/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said they have several board seats that are available. She said the Historic Landmarks Commission has two seats available, Beautification

Board has one seat, Planning Commission has three seats available and the Tree Board has one seat. Mrs. Rock said Ms. Sarah Fallaw would like to serve on the Tree Board. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to appoint Ms. Sarah Fallaw to the Tree Board. Councilman John Milling seconded the motion. Mayor Boyd and Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Baccus, Reed, Milling and Segars voted in favor of the motion.** Mrs. Rock said the next person Mr. Gardner brought to her attention was Mr. Michael Sprott who's previously on the Planning Commission for the County, but you have appointed him to the Board of Zoning Appeals, but he would like to move to the Planning Commission Board. Mrs. Rock said since we have our comprehensive plan coming up in the next year or two, his knowledge and background on that would be very valuable to the Commission. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to appoint Mr. Michael Sprott to the Planning Commission. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Mayor Boyd and Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Baccus, Reed, Milling and Segars voted in favor of the motion.**

Mrs. Rock said the last person Mr. Gardner brought to her was Ronda Brown. She has served on the planning Commission as the chair previously and she wants to come back to it. **Councilman Bryant Garner made a motion to approve Ronda Brown for the Planning Commission. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Mayor Boyd and Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Baccus, Reed, Milling and Segars voted in favor of the motion.** Mrs. Rock said there is still one seat on Planning Commission Board and one seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals which is very important that they fill because there are only five seats and no alternates, and they have to have a quorum.

RECEIVE AS INFORMATION
(DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS (COUNCIL MEMBERS MAY ASK QUESTIONS) Mayor Boyd said the last time he had all department heads come up and speak, but this time he left it open for Council members to ask the department heads questions.

Police Chief Kelvin Washington

Councilman Gardner asked Chief Washington if it's possible to get car break-ins, shootings, and violent crimes on his monthly report like he has the speeding tickets, seatbelt tickets, etc. on his report? Chief Washington said, "Yes. The only thing they have done is give the same information that his predecessor had done, but that's not an issue. Chief Washington asked,

"What do you all want to be reported"? Councilman Gardner said, "I would love to know about car break-ins, shootings, violent crimes, those are my main interests as of now."

Mr. Freddie Kinsaul

Mayor Boyd thanked Mr. Kinsaul for giving him the breakdown on the fire hydrants. Mayor Boyd asked about the issue in the parking lot where the grease had been poured in and so forth; has that been taken care of and is this the same line that the gas line was drilled through also? Mr. Kinsaul said, "It was blocked, and we knew it was either broke or whatever and when they got near the end of it, they found that years ago they had drilled a gas line through the center of it". He said this probably contributing a lot to the problem. Council Gardner asked, "Is there any recourse years later in these situations". Mr. Kinsaul said, probably not because back then there was no 811 locate. He said they are working on recourse on one on Orange Street. Mayor Boyd asked, "Is there any recourse for pouring grease in the trap, down the drain"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "Yes, that's against the ordinance". Mr. Garland said, "We closed them down until they fix their problem". Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Kinsaul the fire hydrant update. He also asked about updates on Broad Street. Mr. Kinsaul said they haven't done anything, they can't get out the sewer. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Kinsaul to check Woodcreek again where they made the cut and put some crush in there. Mr. Kinsaul said they are behind because they have been working on Cotton Street for three days. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "What is being done about the raw sewage that is pumping out on Farm Street"? Mr. Kinsaul said it's not pumping out right now. Councilwoman Baccus said, "Again, for the last fifteen years". Mr. Kinsaul said, "Unfortunately when we did that last grant over there, there was not enough homes on Farm Street to qualify for it to be a part of the grant project". He said that would be the only way to do it. Mr. Kinsaul said whether anything would change on it now it would qualify that and also everything comes out to S. Main Street and crosses S. Main Street going toward Dixie Cup. CDBG will not cover S. Main Street because they said its commercial and not enough low to moderate income so unless we can find some other grant facility will be down to finding funding for the project. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So with the raw sewage still coming out on Farm Street, is this something that needs to be reported to DHEC every time it happens"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "If it's a certain amount. He said if it rains 3-5 inches there's so much infiltration, those sewers are so bad and the manholes flood". Councilwoman Baccus said, "So you're saying the storm drain, the sewer

and the water lines are running together"? Mr. Kinsaul said they aren't supposed to but if you've got rain on the road and you've got a manhole under water, the rainwater is going to run in the sewer. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "So are we reporting this to DHEC"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "Yes, DHEC comes most of the time". Councilwoman Baccus asked, "So what did we do about it when it did it three days ago"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "We'll clean it up". Mr. Kinsaul said, "I've got a third of the Darlington sewer down at the moment, and I've rated high priority over that". Councilwoman Baccus said, "And raw sewage in the street is not priority"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "It's priority, but we'll get that part, we'll clean it". He said the whole crew has been in the woods for three days. Councilwoman Reed said, "Because you have identified that that area does not have the kinds of facility or whatever the other areas do have, I'm just going to ask that you put that as a priority because you know that they cannot function like that because they do not have it". Mr. Kinsaul said, "Allen Street is still on the list too". Councilwoman Reed said, "It's really bad over there and I know it's not like that in others even though you may have these breakdowns it's not as bad because this is the sewage on the street". Mr. Kinsaul said, "I agree with you wholeheartedly and we tried our best to convince them to let us do it and they wouldn't". Mr. Kinsaul said we're going to start chasing every dollar we can chase as far as grants and that's definitely on the list. He said we can go back for a CDBG again to see if there's anything we can get. Councilman Milling said maybe Ms. Privette can help us find something.

Codes Enforcement Officer Mr. Alex Gainey Mayor Boyd thanked Mr. Gainey for the work he's been doing at the street and sanitation department tying to remove the old cars. Mr. Gainey said they started cleaning up the street and sanitation department after he took over down there. He said they've hauled off eight old cars, three dump trucks, six loads of scrap steel. He said they still have four trucks they are waiting to get hauled off. Mr. Gainey said they have a couple of vehicles to be auctioned off in the next few months and once they get that taken care of, he's going to get some of those old sheds cleaned up. Mr. Gainey said he's cleaned up the inside of the building also. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Alex if he's been able to develop a system where they are routinely going around and cleaning out the drains or are they still dealing with emergencies right now? Mr. Gainey said they are still trying to clean it from fifty years of neglect. Mr. Gainey said this past week they worked on Limit Street working that side of town. They worked Spring Street, Greenway Drive area today. He said they are going

back to the Limit Street area, Farm Street, Reid Street, Magnolia Street areas. He said they are out everyday and since they've had so much rain, they have been helping water & sewer pumping off lift stations. When they are helping them, they are working in storm drains. Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Gainey if he's finding that most of it is all that trash…Mr. Gainey said we've got some blockages and some roots in the lines. He said they will have to put the root cutter in to take out some of the other roots, but the problem we have is a lot of our drain systems is terra cotta pipe and he's afraid that when we put that root cutter in there we will disintegrate some of that pipe so we've got to look at how we're going to address that as well. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So don't we have a camera system to see what's going on"? Mr. Gainey said, "We do have a camera system. The camera system that we have, we really need a different tractor for it. The tractor that we have is primarily from what I can gather, is designed for sewer and it's not real effective in storm water pipes." He said the tractor we need is $25,000 so we have to figure out what we're going to do. He said eventually we're going to have to do something about getting it or we've got a camera that we're not going to be able to use otherwise. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So basically you're saying we brought the wrong camera"? Mr. Gainey said, "The camera is fine. The camera will work on the tractor that we need. Mr. Gainey said, "We need a different tractor; one that will get the debris out of the water. He said the tractor we have is a low tractor and most of those lines when you go in them, they have water in them so all you're doing is looking in water and you can't really see what you've got". Councilwoman Reed asked, "Alex did we ever figure out what the situation was in front of Ms. Harkless, in front of the mill on Washington Street? Mr. Gainey said Mr. Garland may have more information on this. He said Ervin Engineering was looking at it and they were trying to get something figured out. Mr. Gainey said they really need the State's help on that because a lot of that is the State's responsibility, but they don't want to do their part. They want to put everything off on the City. Mr. Gainey said hopefully they will be able to make some contacts and try to get them involved a little more and try to help the City out. Mr. Gainey said they will try to get in touch with the State and maybe we can get them on board to help us because it will be an expensive project for the City to take on.

Recreation Department Head Mr. Lee Andrews

Mr. Lee Andrews at the last meeting he asked for $112,000 for heating and air units and Council told him to go back and get other bids. Mr. Andrews

said he had different contractors come in and gave bids and Mr. Allen Guffy/Guffy's Heating and Air came in and said he was able to fix the ones we have for approximately $1,900.00 saving the City over a $100,000. He said one unit had never turned on as far as heat because the thermostat was wired wrong and this was the first person that found that. Mr. Andrews said Bowens Manor park is finished and it's being used every day. They have to put fencing and signage up, but the park itself is being used daily. They are working at Bowen Manor getting the field ready for ball this year because the middle school will be playing home games there and they are redoing the concession stands. They have crush and run at the Hampton Street park on the parking lot side. They are going to look at moving the dog park from Hampton Street out to Bowen Manor to give the dogs more room to run and give more room at Hampton Street to add another piece or two of equipment if they decide to. Mr. Andrews thanked Elaine, Mayor Boyd, former Mayor Gloria Hines for the park on Southern Pine (Terrance Carraway Memorial Park). He said the park was finally dedicated this past month and it's being used daily. Mayor Boyd told Mr. Andrews Manheim volunteered to help with the trees and clean up around the park and any other areas they may have, so let him know. Councilwoman Baccus thanked Mr. Andrews for getting the project done at Bowens Manor. Mr. Andrews said the playground was needed in that area. He said he's had a good outpouring from the community-Pee Dee Electric has helped us out with it; Jamie at the Housing Authority pledged to buy the mulch to put there and Ms. Harriett at the Chamber will make the first payment on it. He said they will play adult men's softball and the older guys baseball over there.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Elaine Reed said, "I was not aware about any of the comments on Facebook. She said as Councilman John said we made that about personal attacks. I didn't see this as an attack, I see it as a request, and I want what we say (the policy that we put in place about personal attacks) not to be limited to council meeting. She said as representatives, as our elected official let's try to carry that the same conduct that we want in here, that we also exhibit that outside of here".

Mr. Garland said recently Georgia Pacific announced $145 million expansion of their plate and bowl plant at the corner of D Avenue & Old Florence Highway. He said it is by far the largest single investment ever in the City of Darlington. He said while we're losing the cup plant and the distribution warehouse for the cup plant, we also getting an expansion of the

plate/bowl plant and expansion of their large warehouse. Mr. Garland said this will be a great windfall in the City of Darlington in the form of business licenses and impact fees. He said they are looking at anywhere from $600,000 to $1 million dollars in the next few years before this is completed. He said they are working on what the property taxes are going to look like and this will be another windfall for the City between 2022 and 2038. Mr. Garland thanked people from Georgia Pacific who were instrumental in helping with this project. He also thanked Mr. Frank Willis with the Darlington County Development office, Mrs. Lisa Rock and State Senator Gerald Malloy and Representative Robert Williams for their part in this. He said they are working on a plan now to direct all truck traffic from D Avenue to Old Florence Highway and is hoping it to be completed by the end of 2022.

REMINDERS

March 3, 2020 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer