CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2018 – 6:30 PM

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: Elaine Reed, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Bryant Gardner, and newly elected Councilwoman Sheila Baccus. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Danny Watson, Mr. Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Mr. Lee Andrews, Mr. Jimmy Davis, Mr. Roger & Mrs. Audrey Gore, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Joyce Thomas, Judge Chevron Scott, Judge Marvin Lawson, Senator Gerald Malloy, Representative Robert Williams, Mr. Roosevelt Scott, Mr. Curtis Boyd, Mr. Steve Abbott, and a room full of visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, to approve the Minutes of December 5, 2017, which unanimously carried.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL WARDS 1, 2, & 3 – PROBATE JUDGE MARVIN LAWSON

Judge Marvin Lawson administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Elaine Reed, Councilman John Segars and newly elected Councilwoman Sheila Baccus.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to elect Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce as Mayor Pro-Tem. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus. All voted in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner, to approve the meeting agenda, which unanimously carried.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock announced the DDRA's executive officers for 2018: Mr. Kerry Tharp, the President of Darlington Raceway will serve as the Board Chair; Mr. Hunter Jordan, rector at St. Matthews Church and lead at the Purple Fish Coffee Company (which will be opening later this year) will serve as Vice-Chair; and Mr. David Vaughan, former executive director of the DDRA will serve as Treasurer. Mrs. Rock said the Board of Directors approved another $5,000 for its Improvement Incentive Program. She said the DDRA provides up to 50% of the cost of installing a new sign or making repairs to the façade of the building up to $1,000. She said to apply, people can get the application from buildupdarlington.org, the City website, her office or from the Codes Enforcement Office here at City Hall. Mrs. Rock said they wll hold a Members' Breakfast at 8:00 AM Wednesday January 31st at Takis diner. She said the monthly meetings allow for businesses to network and learn about the DDRA Program and give feedback for future projects. She said the breakfast will be provided for member businesses at no charge. Nonmembers who would like to attend the meeting are welcome for a nominal donation of $5.00 per person. The meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month at 8:00 AM from January through October. Mrs. Rock said anyone interested in helping to organize the 2018 season of "Bringing Downtown Alive" free concerts should call her office or come to the committee's first meeting of the year which will be held at Mamma Mia's Italian Kitchen at 5:30 PM on January 11, 2018. Councilwoman Bruce asked Mrs. Rock if the information she shares with them at the Council meeting is available on the City's website? Mrs. Rock said this particular report is not. Councilwoman Bruce asked, "For those that's interested in being a part of Bringing Downtown Darlington Alive, would they just get it out by word of mouth? Mrs. Rock said it's word of mouth and it's also on the DDRA website. Mayor Hines asked if it could be put on the City's website also? Mrs. Rock said, "Certainly".

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

Ms. Hobbs said she is pleased to announce that they have a grand total of 12 new or reestablished Chamber members within the last two months. Ms. Hobbs said they are in the process of putting in state-of-the-art computer and phone system. She said coming into 2018 they are having a marketing company redesign system their log and website. She said they want their logo to be new and progressive. Ms. Hobbs said the new website will clearly and proudly indicate that our beloved town is where want to start their businesses, to raise their families and come visit the local events. She said if anyone has any suggestions, please call the Chamber and she will be glad to entertain any suggestions. Ms. Hobbs said the Drop in Open House held on December 7th was a huge success. The Annual Banquet is scheduled to be held February 1, 2018 at the Darlington Country Club. The social begins at 6:30 PM with dinner immediately following. Ms. Hobbs said the Chamber is taking nominations for awards until the end of next week (Friday at noon).

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

A) MR. LINWOOD EPPS. Mr. Epps said he wanted to thank Pat Cavanaugh for his help on the tree lighting project. He said he wanted to thank Chief Watson for his service to the City of Darlington and for his community service. Mr. Epps said he wanted to bring up that the City Manager's contract is coming up in less than 10 months and they need to start thinking about that. He told Council not to wait until the last minute to do something about it, they need to start planning. Mr. Epps thanked Council for taking an option on the land last month instead of going ahead and purchasing it. Mr. Epps noted some things that he didn't like, but Mrs. Bruce said in her prayer and Mrs. Bruce that was a nice prayer and it sounded like you meant it from your heart. It would be so nice if all of you all did what you just prayer for, and that was for you all to stop acting like school kids on a playground. Mr. Epps said, "You're not up there for this, stop doing that". He said, "you all want let each other speak before you interrupt". He said the City of Darlington is in Darlington County; go to the Darlington County Council meetings and watch how they act at Council meetings. He said they let each other speak, they don't care what you say; you can say what you want to, you have the floor, say what you want to they don't interrupt you. Mr. Epps, said, "You all shouldn't be interrupting each

other. He said stop acting like kids, you're all grown, act like it. Mr. Epps said, "You need to respect each other just because you don't agree with what "John" says, don't be ugly about it. Respect him to have that right to say that. Mr. Epps said he would like to see Council come together for the betterment of our City. Councilwoman Bruce said, "Just for the purpose of clarity and for recordkeeping, I wanted to make it be known that in my prayer I said that we work together as a team, not act like-I didn't say anything about school kids.

B) ATTORNEY CHEVRON SCOTT. Mr. Scott said almost directly after the last Council meeting he got a numbers of phone calls regarding a particular issue and something that was addressed in this Council. He said prior to him forming any kind of opinion he went back on Face Book and he was able to review some of the comments in order to get some clarity on what was said. He said one of the Council members said some things that inferred that Senator Malloy was not doing what he was supposed to be doing or not living up to some of the promises that he had. Mr. Scott said Senator Malloy has been a mentor of his since he was a young attorney. He said when he has been able to work with Senator Malloy on so many different things for this particular County/City he knows those inferences that he was not doing what he promised to do was not correct. Mr. Scott said he wanted to bring this to Council's attention in regards to being sure that in this new age of social media we've got to be very careful. He said if someone has an issue with Senator Malloy in any way, then the appropriate person to talk to would be Senator Malloy; particularly if you are going to make a blanket statement the way that that statement was made. Mr. Scott said he wanted to encourage all of the Council to please be courteous and civil to one another. He said he looked at the last Council meeting and he was very disturbed. He said he was disturbed about the decorum that Council had; he was disturbed about how one of the Councilmembers was saying something and one of the other Councilmembers was throwing their hands up. Mr. Scott said he wanted to encourage the Mayor as well as all Councilmembers to work together to share their vision. He said whatever your vision is, you can agree to be disagreeable with one another and still be courteous with one another. Mr. Scott said we have a racial divide in this City now because we do not love each other as God love's us. He said we pray at every Council meeting and as soon as the prayer is over, you all go back to doing the things that you were doing before. Mr. Scott asked Council to do what's in the best (not in their district) interest of the City collectively. Mr. Scott said prior to anyone making any statements,

particularly when it comes to an elected official, you need to make sure that you have your facts straight. You need to make sure that you can specifically say what that promise was. Mr. Scott said he knows Senator Malloy has done so much for this City. Mr. Scott thanked Council for allowing him to speak. He encouraged Council to do the things for the City that will make the City a better place for all of us.

C) REPRESENATIVE ROBERT WILLIAMS. Representative Williams wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mr. Williams said his purpose is to talk about the unity of our City. He said it's very crucial and critical to all of us to unify ourselves. He said it's time out for games and if you're in to playing games, you need to go to the Olympics. Representative Williams said, "I urge all of you, including the Mayor, for each of you to walk worthy of your calling". "Not only walk worthy, but live worthy of your calling in which you have received, and that calling is to be elected officials and to be a public servant". He said as it has already ben alluded to, you have a unique task and "we" expect no less than you to be who you say you are and respect one another and to live according to that. Representative Williams said as we start out this new year it's up to Council to set tempo for the City. He said if you're going to get up here and fuss and fight, then that's what the citizens will do. He said folks are watching you when you think they are not. Representative Williams said as elected officials it's very important that when you're in public, you need to act as if you're in public because you don't know who's watching, listening. He said his issue with the City is a lack of communication. He said as far as getting him information or getting the Senator information, he's not sure if it really happening the way that it should be. He told Council if they need something, don't wait until the last minute to come and ask. Representative Williams said the Senator has been working hard for the City and he has been working hard for the City and they will continue to do so with their support or without their support. He encouraged Council to work together and said it would be an honor to see them move the City forward.

D) SENATOR GERALD MALLOY. Senator Malloy wished everyone a Happy New Year. Senator Malloy said his father and mother celebrated 60 years of marriage this year and have four children. Likewise, he has four children. He said his wife of 28 years is present tonight. His son of 26 years of age was present as well. Senator Malloy said when you work so hard and you have comments that are made that are false, that's wrong. He said all he has is his daddy's name and that's why he's here to protect it. Senator

Malloy said criticism of him is fair, get the facts right. He said, "If you say that I'm too conservative, that's fair". "If you say that I'm too liberal, that's fair". Say other comments about me, that's fair. Senator Malloy read from a transcript what was said at the last Council meeting – 'The Senator has promised us on several occasions that he's going to come up with some more money to finish up the projects to this date I don't think he has come up with one dime". Senator Malloy said, "Mr. Garland, you should be correcting things. Millions of dollars are here. He said Ronnie Ward would correct some things with projects that have gone on. Senator Malloy said the specific project that was mentioned the Mayor sent a letter. Senator Malloy read a copy of letter that was sent thanking him for his support in getting PARD funding for the Gandy Swimming Pool and Bathhouse. Senator Malloy said, "Members of Council we're here to work with you. I make no promises to any of you. I don't owe you any promises, the Oath that I took is enough. He said the Oath that the Council members took tonight is enough. Senator Malloy said his promise at being Senator in this State is to uphold the duties and responsibilities of this office and he hold them in trust for the people until they turn it back over to the people whenever the voters say so. Senator Malloy said, "I don't promise projects to people, I don't promise funding to people". He said they don't have that ability; it's not their money, it's the taxpayer's money. He said politics is about prioritizing and putting first things first and second things, second. Senator Malloy said one of his mentors, John Spratt told him when he first for elected, you don't go to local government meetings unless you are invited. He said the local government is supposed to control that and they are the ones that's supposed to handle things that are local. Senator Malloy said the question is why is he here, was he invited and he said, "yes, my name has been invoked". Senator Malloy said he wrote a letter to Council and he is sure they will publish it later on. He said there's been a lot of failures around here. He said they've lost several million dollars on several projects in this county. He said, "They have projects that have been going on for years, Mr. Garland, you don't have enough help. Senator Malloy said they have CDBG grants that's been here. He said when Jay Cox was here he was telling him how many grants the police have gotten since they have been in office. Senator Malloy said Councilman Gardner is trying to work on a project now and Judge Milling is working on a project for several years that they have gotten money for. Senator Malloy said public responsibility is great, words matter and whenever you're using words in the context that are here (Senator Malloy said words made in the Senate where he serves, they have rules that prevent it. You can't talk about another member).

Senator Malloy implored everyone to adhere to the principal to be uniters as oppose to dividers. He said there was no reason for the Senator's name to be evoked into a project over here. He said whoever did it, it's wrong. He said, "I don't get a chance to vote on your projects, all I can do is support your projects-don't use my name". Senator Malloy said, "And don't us anybody else's name. He said the votes come from the people that are here. Don't shed responsibility to other people, you have a responsibility here and you need to take that responsibility. He said, Uniters, not dividers. We've got to build bridges instead of building walls. Senator Malloy said you're over here fighting for jobs and breaking things down on racial lines; lines that's territorial and geography, those years are past. Senator Malloy said there's a method for communication with them. He said he doesn't communicate with Council's on projects, he makes no promises to you. He said your Administrator will bring your projects to me after you all have voted on them. He said once you all have decided how you want to proceed they will go and try to see what help they are able to provide. He said sometimes they do it in advance and sometimes they do it after the fact. Senator Malloy said, "We've had a good relationship Mr. Garland, you need to tell them that". He said, "When somebody mention something in here and you know it's wrong, you need to speak up, my friend". He said when the prior Mayor was here he will attest to it that we have a good working relationship. Also, the current Mayor and the Police Chief have a good working relationship with him. He said as a political person we are subject to criticism sometimes, born sinners we deserve it, that's why we repent and try to rehabilitate, but you can't be subject to things that are wrong. He said his letter was saying to them and he hopes they will publish it and there are many wrong ways to do things right; but there's no right ways to do things wrong. We can always do better, it's our responsibility and our citizens deserve it. Senator Malloy said his son is here tonight because the comments that are made are permanent. They are into eternity. Senator Malloy said his son has seen the comments, his family has seen them, his grandchildren will see them. He said the people out here if they hear comments that says there's been no help, not even help with a dime, that's what they believe and they shouldn't have to believe that. Senator Malloy said he talked with the City Attorney today and he told him today is a good day because it gives us an opportunity to move forward. He said he's their elected leader and admonish them to do this to move forward. He said during difficult times two stories can happen; one bad, one good. He said strong people, strong will can make a difference if they are willing to do the work. If you continue to do good as John's Letter says to the Galatians and

don't get tired and don't give up, you'll reap a rich harvest. Senator Malloy said, "So when we start thinking of just about us and in our area and we want to end up putting it on somebody else, then that's not right". He said our responsibility is take this as a positive and move forward. If the right thing happens the mediums that are used to make comments will be the same mediums that are used to change them. Senator said, "It's fine to end up having a conversation with him, I'm fine, I will continue. "My children are not fine, my daddy is not fine, my wife is not fine, that's why she's here". Senator Malloy said, "So what do we need?" "We need people to be of good will. We need for people to take on the Oath of their responsibility that they have pledged to end up doing". Senator Malloy said, "As far as any promises again, I want to be really clear while I'm here". "Nobody makes promises to you on my behalf, only I speak for me". If you hear it from someone else, please discount it and if there's an issue that I need to address, please call me. He said almost all of Council has called him on his cellphone frequently. He said it's open and available, you don't have to guess. He said when you have the ability to go in and get material and you have the ability set things up (He said when he walked in the door tonight Mr. Andrews said, "We just finished that project that we had done). He said, "Talk to him about projects, there's a method for doing it". Senator Malloy said, "there needs to be grant writers here. Mr. Garland, you need some grant writers to help. You need to imitate from others. Senator Malloy said they PARD grants they were talking about that they use for the pool, they don't use them in Hartsville because they have the big park that's funded off a two cents sales tax. He said other cities that are poorer, need it and that's who gets it. He said there is a prioritization that's goes on that they need to know about. Senator Malloy said he's overstayed his time and thanked for their patience and indulgence and kindness. Senator Malloy said the comments that are being made, this is a serious issue for him. He said, "Whenever you make a comment that we know, we can say it's a mistake, we can say it's an error, we can say whatever; it's just my name, it's my daddy's name, my children's name, my wife's name". He said they don't deserve that. He said these broad shoulders can take it, but they don't deserve it. Mayor Hines thanked Senator Malloy for his appearance. Mayor Hines called on Councilman Segars to make a statement. Councilman Segars said he has a prepared statement that he'd like to make, but he started not to make this statement because so much has been made about this comment earlier. Councilman Segars said he did make some comments last month at the last Council meeting about certain funding from Senator Malloy's office being not completely accurate. Councilman Segars said he

was speaking about one project which was completed years ago. He said Senator Malloy in fact helped us with Phase 2 of the project when he did come up with $40,000 to help us renovate those bathrooms he stated about and put security cameras at the Gandy Pool after we had the pool accident down there. He said the Senator has actually helped the City in numerous ways to fund projects that we might otherwise have not been able to complete and for this we are grateful. Councilman Segars said this is a statement to attempt to undo or correct comments that he made that were not meant to be slanderous or intentional incorrect. He said he was talking about one project years ago and he apologized for those comments. Senator Malloy said, "The only thing I will take exception to is I never made any promises for any projects". He said invoking of words that we promise to end of giving for project, is not my money. Senator Malloy said, "I appreciate what you said and I meant the comments that I made that it's time for us to end up moving forward". Senator Malloy said, "The apology in your own way is good and thank you". He said the premise was is that it should have never been mentioned. He said he was not in the discussion for the South project. He said he just want it to be known that he doesn't make promises for projects because it's not his money, it's the taxpayers money. Mayor Hines thanked everyone for their remarks. She said it's much needed and unity is what we need in Darlington. She said Darlington cannot grow if they don't work together.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) TYNER WAREHOUSE PROPERTY UPDATE – MR. ALEX GAINEY

Mr. Gainey said last month a citizen came to the meeting last month and got on the Mayor and on him about the Tyner Building. Mr. Gainey said he went to court with James Tyner (one of the owners) on the 13th of December and the Judge wanted him to postpone it until the 10th of January to give them the opportunity to present us with a fully executed contract with a demolition contractor to tear the building down. He said they have until 12 noon on January 10th to give us a fully executed contract, if not we will be in court at 4:00 that same afternoon to forward with the case to determine how they will proceed with it.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-01 - DIGITAL SIGN ORDINANCE -MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said our sign ordinance is part of the zoning ordinance for the City and it currently has one sentence "Signs shall be located no closer than 300 feet to the nearest dwelling". They can only be located in general commercial zoning districts. Mrs. Rock said this gives no leeway for new technology and it doesn't address a number of issues. She said over the last two or three years they have had multiple board of zoning appeals because of digital signage. She said some were passed and some were denied. Mrs. Rock said we've had a lot of issues come up with signage. She said some of the signs were approved and then we've had citizens complain about the signs. Mrs. Rock said with that one sentence being all we have in the zoning ordinance there's not a lot we can do to address it from the staff side without further rules. She said for the last six or eight months the Planning Commission has looked at ordinances from other towns to see what they are doing. Mrs. Rock said they've had two professional sign companies come in that do digital signage; (one local and one from California. They brought samples and they did a lot of legwork for this). Mrs. Rock told Council the proposed ordinance they have before them was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission. She said Section 5-14 would make an annual sign permit and inspection required for all digital signage. She said what they found is sometimes when the lights go out and half of the sign is lit and half is not, this does not look very good. Mrs. Rock said this is to make sure the signs are maintained on an annual basis. Mrs. Rock continued to go over the rules for all digital signage, permanent or temporary. She said digital billboards are not allowed. Signs need to be for the business on the property where it is placed. They must be repaired, removed, replaced or turned off it more than 25% of the face is not functioning. Signs must be located at least 300 feet from the nearest dwelling; they are not allowed in a historic district; they are allowed in General Commercial, Core Commercial and Industrial zoning districts; framing on signs must be a neutral color; signs may not display inappropriate words or images; owners must be able to adjust the brightness of the signs; signs may not display video; motion is not allowed, signs must remain static for a minimum of 10 seconds; signs must conform to the City of Darlington's light ordinance; scrolling text messages are not allowed; an automatic photocell is required and brightness may not exceed 4,500 nits. Mrs. Rock said the signs shall be dimmed automatically from sunset to 10 PM. She said displays must be cut off or turned to 0% brightness between the hours of 10 PM and 6 AM. She said most of the businesses are not open during these hours. Mrs. Rock said once the ordinance is approved by Council they would mail a copy of this ordinance to every business. She said anybody that has a digital sign will have 12

months from the date of enactment to make sure that their sign fit these regulations. Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Rock if she feels the businesses that have the digital signs already have the photocell in it. Mrs. Rock said she is not sure that they do and she's pretty sure some of them don't. Councilman Gardner said if businesses are open after 10 PM and they are going to be required to cut their signs off, then it will look like they are closed. He said that would be a worry of his. Councilman Gardner said if a business is operating he thinks it would be fine to have their sign stay on until they close and then cut the sign off. He said he can understand not having on until 2 o'clock in the morning, but if we have a restaurant or gas station or other business that's open. Mrs. Rock said there are several businesses that are open 24-hours and the Commission did consider that but they felt that this was more for the residents than for traffic flow. Councilman Gardner said, "I can understand that going forward but we have businesses investing money in these things and if they have to cut their sign off at 10 PM and they're until 12, then I think that would be something that could really hurt their business. He said this would be the only amendment he would be interested in. Mayor Hines asked about Hudson's Gas Station on Highway 52. She said Hudson's closes after 10:00 and if they have the photocell in the sign they could cut it down and not cut it off because people would think they are closed. She said the digital sign would not be the businesses' primary sign. These said these signs are generally the secondary portion of the sign that gives messages such as "2 for $1 hotdogs". Councilman Gardner asked if they could amendment the ordinance to read "when the business closes". Mrs. Rock told him that's up to Council. Councilman Gardner asked City Attorney Kevin Etheridge if we have a new law the comes into effect, businesses that already have a digital sign, can we force them to change their sign?" City Attorney Etheridge said he would have to check on this. Mayor Hines said usually in the past and something came into law they usually grandfathered it in. Mayor Hines said digital signs are very, very expensive and she thinks we need to amend the ordinance in some way so that if businesses stay open after 10 PM they can leave sign on (she said if it has the photocell, maybe they can dim it a little). Councilwoman Bruce said we need to get information on the grandfather clause. Mayor Hines said maybe they need to table this tonight until they get more information before they have first reading. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to table this until they get more clarification on it. Councilwoman Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:35 PM to discuss Recreation: Proposed Virgil Wells Stadium purchase, Proposed Old Florence Highway Recreation Site Purchase. The City of Darlington may or may not vote after closed Executive Session. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved.

REMINDERS

Monday, January 15, 2018 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday-All City Offices Closed;
Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly City Council Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Councilman John Segars, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, Executive Session ended at 8:14 PM

Mayor Hines said they had discussion about the two ballfields proposed Virgil Wells Stadium purchase and Old Florence Highway Recreation site purchase. She said we are not going to make a purchase at this time because something else came up about the price. Mayor Hines said they instructed Mr. Lee Andrews to look a little further.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilman Gardner, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

_____
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
SPECIAL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
FOLLOWED BY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2018 AT 7:00 PM

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: Elaine Reed, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Bryant Gardner, and Sheila Baccus. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Mr. Alex Gainey, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Interim Police Chief Jimmy Davis, Mr. Charles Bailey, Mr. Francis Parnell and a number of visitors.

VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, to go into Executive Session at 6:30 PM to discuss a personnel matter concerning the Fire Department and Planning Department. The City of Darlington may or may not vote after closed Executive Session.

Councilwoman Sheila Baccus made a motion to end executive session at 6:50 PM, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

PRESENT AT MEETING:

All listed above and Mrs. Betty Jackson, Mr. Hoyt Campbell, Mr. Linwood Epps, Ms. Rhonda Brown, Ms. Jannie Lathan and a number of visitors. Councilman John Milling arrived 7:39 PM.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Elaine Reed did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, to approve the Minutes of January 2, 2018, which unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, to approve the meeting agenda, which unanimously carried.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said the Annual Taste of Darlington will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at the track "Too Tough to Tame" from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM in the garage area. She said they are accepting grillers, table hosts and sponsors. Mrs. Rock said the "Taste" is being held on the 2nd Thursday in April this year which will lead into their 2018 season of "Bringing Downtown Alive" free concerts that will be held the second Thursday of the month (May through August- May 10th, June 14th, July 12th, August 9th 2018 and Friday August 31st for Race Week at Liberty Lane and Pearl Street) She said Johnny Glenn & the Chasers will perform on May 10th to kick off the series with Bout Time Band of Darlington performing on June 14th. Mrs. Rock said anyone interested in helping organize the concert can call her office or come to the next concert committee meeting at Mamma Mia's at 5:30 PM Thursday, February 22nd. Carolina Bank, Darlington Raceway and Fitness World Gyms will present the DDRA's Annual Golf Tournament on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at Darlington Country Club. She said the DDRA continues to hold a monthly Members' Breakfast each month at 8:00 AM at Takis Diner (Next Monthly meeting is Wednesday February 28, 2018). She said breakfast is provided for member businesses at no charge and nonmembers who would like to attend the meeting are welcome for a nominal donation of $5.00 towards the meal.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –MS. HARRIETT HOBBS (Not Present)

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

A) MS. KAY PIERSON – DIGITAL SIGNS Ms. Pierson said she is present at the meeting to speak in support of the Digital Sign Committee. She said as Chairperson of the Landmark Committee they have worked and gave input to the Planning Committee as they did the Digital Sign Ordinance. Ms. Pierson said they don't think as it is written it will do any harm to enter the Historic District. She said it's a compromise. She said a lot of Historic Districts have very small signage with no lights, so this is a compromise, but they do support it.

B) MR. FRANCIS PARNELL – DIGITAL SIGNS Mr. Parnell said when the digital sign ordinance came up he felt that it needed to be supported and written so it would work. He said we may be the only City in the State that is requiring the sign to be dimmed down at sunset where it won't blind drivers. Mr. Parnell said, "Just pass it and lead the State".

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-01 – DIGITAL SIGN ORDINANCE Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Rock about the changes made to the ordinance and she said based on the comments from Council members, number 16 was changed to allow for businesses to operate after 10:00 PM to keep their lights on, but dimmed, until the business closes and then turn them off. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-01 – Digital Sign Ordinance with the revisions. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

NEW BUSINESS

A) MR. HOYT CAMPBELL – DARLINGTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION Mr. Campbell said the Election Commission is in the process of building a building to house the voting machines and also a room that would be used in the front part for training, election night reporting and absentee voting. Mr. Campbell said it gets pretty hectic up there when you have about 600 people that come the day before the election to vote. Mr. Campbell said this way they will have all their machines on site and if they have a crowd for certification, they will have enough room to handle the crowd. Mr. Campbell told Council the meeting room is approximately 30' x

40'. He told Council if they need a meeting room to have a meeting and it's not around election time, they are welcome to use it. Mr. Campbell said they are interested in using part of the railroad bed which is about 40" wide. He said they would like to have some extra parking up front and at the back they would like to put a road leaving the City parking lot and come around the building so they can load the voting machines the day before the election and unload them election night. Mr. Campbell said if the City is able to get the walking trail up and running, eleven months out of the year could be a place for people to park because they will have lighting. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Campbell how much of the area do they need? Mr. Campbell said he would think some of the area up front and then some at the back and come around the side of their building. Mr. Campbell said it wouldn't be a whole lot. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Campbell if they will be willing to have a survey done to show exactly what they want to take? Mr. Campbell said, "Yes, but we're not going to take it, we just want to use it". He said they just want to have access to it. Mayor Hines told Mr. Campbell to give Mr. Garland the survey when he gets it. Mr. Campbell told Mr. Garland he will get with him and then he'll talk with his people to find out who they would use to do something like this. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Campbell when the building will be completed. Mr. Campbell said they are moving along pretty fast with construction and the completion date is supposed to be March 1st, but the weather held them up on some things. He said as long as they are done by the first of April, that would be good.

B) MR. JIMMY EPPLING – DIRECTOR DARLINGTON COUNTY LIBRARY, PROPERTY BEHIND LIBRARY Mr. Eppling told Council he wanted to speak to them about a parcel of property behind the Darlington Library branch building. (He passed out handouts to Council so the could see the property in question) Mr. Eppling said in 2015 the Library was looking at the property behind building on Main Street. He said the property behind the Library was in the possession of the St. John's Foundation. Mr. Eppling said they were interested in that piece of property for a possible future expansion for the library so they went about the process of securing that piece of property. He said they spoke to their County Attorney and went through the process of going to the tax sale. He said at the tax sale the library paid the taxes for the property so that in one year the they will receive a title for that piece of property. Mr. Eppling said on the map in red shows the piece of property they acquired (approximately ½ acre). He said it was virtually landlocked by their property and two other properties. He said they found that piece of property as useful to them so that in the future

if they want to expand the Darlington branch, they can more easily expand out back of building as oppose to the sides and front. He said he knows City Council is considering a walking trail. He said looking at the map (a 1968 drawing of the property) it mentions a railroad right-of-way before the Library was built and that right-of-way passes right through the building. Mr. Eppling said the Library was built on the railroad right-of-way that was given to the Library and the County and St. John's Foundation at that time for building. Mr. Eppling told Council in the discussions that they have regarding a walking trail, at this point and time, because they will be taking possession of the property it would be passing across County property. Mr. Eppling said that's not to say they are opposed to a walking trail going behind the Library, but that they have made sure they were able to secure that piece of property for the use of the library for future expansion. He told Council if they want to go ahead with a walking trail they are not averse to sitting down and talking about a "walking trail" and going through this strip of property and around the library. Mr. Eppling said, "Either way, it will be virtually a year before we can do anything about it because only then will there be clear title to the property. Councilman Gardner thanked Mr. Eppling for being open to the trail. Mr. Eppling said, "If you're talking about a 3 to 4-foot-wide gravel or mulch covered trail, I don't see any reason why we couldn't accommodate something like that and have it pass through behind the library for that purpose. He said they saw the need and they took steps to make sure that they secure the property for their purposes.

C) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-02 PURCHASE OF PROPERTY (165-04-01-005 – 4 ACRES); (165-00-02-010 – 13 ACRES); CORNER OF OLD FLORENCE HIGHWAY AND AVENUE D

Mayor Hines said Council talked about this last month and they are supposed to make a decision on it tonight. Mr. Lee Andrews said nothing has changed. He said the City already owns the property that's adjacent to it at Bowen Manor. He said there's five acres there and this property will bring us back up to Avenue D. It's an "L" shape piece of property and will give us 21.1 acres of land which will be enough to build what we need to build as far as softball fields. The cost is $161,500**. Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-02l Purchase of property (165-04-01-005 – 4 acres; 165-00-02-010 – 13 acres, corner of Old Florence Highway and Avenue D for a cost of $161,500. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

D) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-03 PURCHASE OF VIRGIL WELLS STADIUM (165-11-01-048); BALLFIELD AND TENNIS COURTS (165-11-01-038 FROM DARLINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR $100,000 – MR. LEE ANDREWS

Mr. Andrews said this is the property that we had in mind to build four ballfields on, but when the property came available at Old Florence Highway and we could get everything in one spot, we didn't want to abandon the property because the neighborhood as a whole really needs it we just need to update the property after we purchase it. Mr. Andrews said this will help with parking at the gymnasium there and we will be able to put our football/soccer program, redo the stadium, redo the bathrooms, put in a park, playground, tennis courts, etc. He said this will give the people of Darlington a place where they can go and have fun. Councilwoman Reed thanked Mr. Andrews for working with this so well and she is pleased that we were able to get the property on Old Florence Highway and Avenue D. She said the kind of thing that we want to do at B.A. Gary. this opens it up so that we can. She said where the old ballfield is, is where we are looking to at least have a beautiful park/playground and update the tennis courts. She said the stadium can be maintained for the football. Mr. Andrews said he wants to move all football to that area, so it will be more centralized there. Mr. Andrews said it could open up in the future to where we're playing football now, for something else there. He said we want to keep the Virgil Wells

Stadium intact and actually go in and upgrade it and look at doing something in future with A.W. Stanley Gym. Councilman Segars said, "This is the same property that the School District was going to give us at one time, and now they want to sell it to us"? Mr. Andrews said, "Yes Sir". Councilman Segars said, "And also, I think the School District, when they build their new school they are going to give us the Brunson-Dargan property, is that correct or are they going to try to sell that to us too"? Mr. Andrews said this has been discussed in the past, but he thinks Mr. Garland has some information on this. Mr. Andrews said what they have said is that they will give us the property that we want if we maintain the water lines that come with it. He said it's not feasible to do that. Mr. Andrews said it would cost us more to fix the waterlines than it would to buy the property at Virgil Wells. Councilman Segars said he was talking about the property at Brunson-Dargan and Mr. Andrews said they want us to take the waterlines with that too. Mr. Andrews said by that time it might be something a little more manageable as far as fixing with the piece of property that we're getting, but as far as just the 100' on either side of the creek, it wasn't worth

it. Councilman Segars said he was concerned more with the actual school site and Mr. Andrews said we still are very much in want of that if we can work it out with them. Councilman Segars said with the baseball field and the football field, that would be a much larger piece of property you could deal with versus Virgil Wells. Councilman Segars said his concern with Virgil Wells is all of the criminal activity that's been going on in that neighborhood for the last 1 – 1 ½ years. He asked if that's going to be conducive for our recreation department? Mr. Andrews said they are actually doing programs over there right now. He said they haven't had a problem with their programs over there. Mr. Andrews said the people that are acting out, are acting out outside of what they are doing. He said they know that when they come into their buildings we police that and our Police Department has been great. Mr. Andrews said we haven't had that type of problem with our programs, but they are well aware of the problems in the neighborhood. Councilwoman Reed said, "Where else is the recreation going on now, do you think we would want to stop because of that"? Councilman Segars said, "You're missing my point, I'm concerned about public perception". "Are we going to have parents wanting to come down there". Mr. Andrews said we've had phone calls when they were looking at doing the ballfields there, parents concerned about what was going on. He said they played baseball over there for years with the Little League and there has been problems, and there's problems everywhere, but they haven't had that type of problem. He said as far as within the program itself, they have 150 kids that play Little League over there and their parents took them to the ball games and practices there at the ballfield. Mr. Andrews said, "I know exactly where you're coming from because I've had to answer those phone calls and I had to answer those questions". He said I cannot tell you that there's not going to be a problem over there. He said I can't tell you that there's not going to be a problem at Old Florence and I can't tell you that there's not going to be a problem at Blue Street tonight. Mr. Andrews said, "If we invest in bringing the quality of life up, not just in that area, but all over Darlington and people take pride in what we're doing, then I think the crime will go down. He said they will take pride in what we've built for them and they are going to want it to be better. Councilwoman Elaine Reed asked Mr. Andrews, in view of everything he just said, has the participation in the recreation program decreased. Mr. Andrews said, "No, but that's a double-edged sword because it has increased a little in one area but it's increased in other areas. Councilman Segars said, "With the improvements that we're going to do on Old Florence Highway (build a softball/baseball complex), if we fund that how are we going to fund this. Mr. Garland said

we have over $1 million in the hospitality tax fund and we have $1,870,000 in the bond account. He said the bond payment is currently less than half of what we take in for hospitality tax. He said if we need to look at getting more money with another bond, which is something we can do, he needs to know from them how much they want and then he'll go out and see what's feasible or not. Councilman Gardner said, "Just so we know, we are using about 40% of our hospitality bond to pay off our bond right now". Mr. Garland said it's about 45%. Mr. Andrews said before you go out and get another bond, we could take a look at phasing some things at Virgil Wells and Old Florence Road and we might not have to go out and spend a million dollars just to spend it. He said we can get a playground for approximately $150,000, which we can do with out having to get a bond. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-03 – Purchase of Virgil Wells Stadium (165-11-01-048); Ballfield and Tennis Courts (165-11-01-038) from Darlington County School District for $100,000. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion except Councilman Segars who voted against the motion.**

E) FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2018-04 PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE FOR PLAYGROUND (164-15-02-055); (164-15-02-056); & (164-15-02-060) FOR $80,500 LOCATED AT 207 SISKRON STREET (OLD POBOY'S SEAFOOD BLDG)

Mr. Andrews said City Attorney Mr. Kevin Etheridge did some checking into whether we could use hospitality tax money to build something there and after talking to some people there doesn't seem to be a problem with that. Mr. Andrews said this opens it up to do some things at Virgil Wells also. He said we're in dire need of having playgrounds. He said we don't have anything for our kids or for the adults to enjoy on a day like we have today. Mr. Andrews said because of the beautiful weather the park by the Admin Building was packed today and this is with limited resources. He said they put two swings up at the Pine Center playground. He said we can do some cool things on the Siskron Street property. Mr. Andrews said they can put a playground there and there's even enough room that we can put a dog park which is something that is not around here. He said he knows the "buzz word" tonight has been trails, but there's grant money out there for trails. Mr. Andrews said a trail doesn't have to be something that's extravagant. He said a trail can be something that going to connect this playground to another playground and so forth and before you know it you have a trail where you can walk to anywhere in Darlington. Councilman

John Segars asked Mr. Andrews what is the vision for the restaurant building that's on the Siskron Street property? Mr. Andrews said they have looked at maybe doing some kind of center (a program area) or maybe even doing away with the center and have bathrooms for the playground, trail or that side of the town. Mr. Andrews said his vision is more on the outside of that where we can put some fitness equipment, playground and golf holes. Councilman Bryant Gardner said somebody in administration was talking about maybe updating that building and renting it out to a restaurant or selling that little piece of property. Councilwoman Elaine Reed said Councilman Segars pointed out about the crime over there that would affect Virgil Wells. She said the last three updates from our City Manager outlined different crimes and the last thing they got from him was that a gentleman was robbed at gunpoint on E. Broad. Mr. Andrews said that's actually right in the middle of Siskron Street and Old Florence Road. Councilwoman Reed asked Mr. Segars if he was aware of that and think they shouldn't go forward with it? Councilman Segars said he's aware of that, but he's talking about repeated instances in one section of town. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made motion to approve the purchase of the Siskron Street property (164-15-02-055); (164-15-02-056) & (164-15-02-060) for $80,500 – 207 Siskron Street. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion.** Councilman John Milling said he's assuming with all of these condition of our ordinances, that we will be able to get clear titles. Mr. Garland said what he's mentioning is the language in all of the ordinances. **All approved the motion.**

F) VACTOR TRUCK PROPOSED LEASE/PURCHASE – MR. KINSAUL

Mr. Kinsaul said he's been asked by Mr. Garland and several Council members to get some prices on a Vactor Truck. He said a Vactor Truck is used to suck out storm water catch basins which has a high-pressure hose to wash pipes. He said they have had to use one occasionally when they have a sewer break or clean out a lift station. Mr. Kinsaul said it will require hiring two highly trained operators with CDL Driver's Licenses which would have to be included into the purchase price. Mr. Kinsaul received two quotes from Jet Vac and he said the only difference between the two is one is before the price increase. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Kinsaul to talk about the machine and how much it will be able to move debris out of the catch basin. Mr. Kinsaul said Mr. Alex Gainey had Anderson Plumbing come in with a machine to clean out the catch basin at the corner of S. Main Street & Hampton Street. He said this basin probably had three feet of debris and

they removed that and jetted out the lines. He said before this, every time the YMCA back washed their pool filters, it flooded Mr. Curtis Boyd's property at the intersection. Mr. Kinsaul said since we've been done with the rains, there's been no issues with that intersection. Councilman Gardner asked, "How long do you think that people could work going around the City cleaning out all the drains"? Mr. Kinsaul said it would be an eternity. Councilman Gardner asked Mr. Kinsaul if he was talking multiple years before they could catch up and he said, "Yes". Councilman Milling asked if we currently have a maintenance system where we can go in an effectively clean out our manholes and Mr. Kinsaul said, "No". Mr. Kinsaul said his crew had to do lift station repair this week and they had to hire Sellers Septic Tank for nineteen hours one day to pump while they worked; therefore, he has a $3,000-$4,000 bill for a septic tank truck that this vac truck could have done. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul how much money is he talking about for the Vac Truck? Mr. Kinsaul said the lowest quote is $367,359.51. The second one, if we should miss that truck, is $391,348. He said this is for the same year truck, but as of January 1st there was a price increase and one truck was ordered prior to that and one was ordered after the price increase. Councilwoman Reed said, "Now that I am becoming more and more aware of what storm water is about and how it has affected this City with this flooding and whatever, please tell me why haven't we dealt with this before"? "Why is it right now, it didn't just happen". Mr. Kinsaul said we use to have an old truck when he first started working here and the little that's been done was contracted out. Councilwoman Reed said whenever you had it, it served the purpose. Mr. Kinsaul said there's never been a storm water program and the old truck was used primarily for sewer work and that's what it was brought for. He said it was purchased to clean out sewer lift stations, not storm water. Councilwoman Reed said, "Ok, so then let me get this understanding now; what you're asking us is the same truck; that's the same thing"? Mr. Kinsaul said it will do both. He said they will co-use it; they will use it in the sewer department when they need it and the crew will use it to clean storm water drains when it's not being used any where else. Councilwoman Reed said, "So, the reason it wasn't used before is because we didn't have a storm water plan and we've got a storm water plan now, so now you would like to use it for both". Mr. Kinsaul said we can use it for water/sewer as well as the street department can use it. He said the machine would be bought and paid for by multiple departments. Councilman Gardner said our current method of cleaning out drains is the employees using a shovel. Councilwoman Bruce told Mr. Kinsaul he mentioned getting an outside service to come in and pump out an area. She

asked Mr. Kinsaul how many times during the year would he have to get someone to come in and perform this service and Mr. Kinsaul said five to ten times a year at $3,000-$4,000 each time. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul the difference between the lease price and the purchase price. Mr. Kinsaul said they haven't pursued financing. Mayor Hines asked how long does he think the truck will last and he said brand new, 15 to 20 years. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul if he can use money out of the capital fund. Mr. Kinsaul said his capital fund will be to paint the water tanks. Mr. Garland told Council if this is something they want to do, they can finance it over a seven to ten-year period with payment split between different departments. Councilman Milling said this will help the people on W. Broad Street that gets flooded out every time it rains. Mr. Kinsaul said cleaning any pipe is going to help out. He said a 15" pipe that's clean, flows a whole lot more than a 15" pipe that's 2/3 full of dirt. Mr. Garland said in reference to W. Broad & E. Broad Streets, all of those storm water easements were done in the 1930's & 1940's, some are in people's backyards and there are oak trees on top of some of these pipes. Mr. Garland said we can clean to a certain point, but sooner or later if we really approach this, we have to go in with cooperation of the property owners to get some of these problems solved. Mr. Kinsaul said this is not a fix for everything without major work, but some maintenance will help alleviate some of the flooding in Darlington. Councilwoman Reed said the workers do use more than a shovel to clean out the pipes. Mr. Garland will look at financial options and bring back to Council at the March meeting, if this is the consensus of Council.

G) APPROVAL BRIDGE LOAN SOUTHEAST DARLINGTON STORMWATER PROJECT

Mr. Garland said this is no longer needed and asked that it be struck from the agenda.

H) UPDATE RESIDENTIAL HOUSING DEMOLITION PROGRAM – MR. ALEX GAINEY (INFO)

Mr. Gainey said right now there are four renovations in progress. He said since they've started the demolition program they have had seven people that have come in and applied for permits to fix up their properties. He said they have had four properties that have been removed by the property owner. There have been two properties removed by the City - (702 Washington Street - through the Demolition Assistance Program & 202 Chalmers Street). He said 108 Tallulah Street has been contracted with a demolition

contractor to remove the structure. He said they've got to be able to access the property so he's going to see what they have to do there and give them access so they can tear the property down. Mr. Gainey said right now there are eight properties scheduled for demolition beginning February 19th with the last house to torn down on March 8th. Mr. Gainey said once we get closer to the 8th of March, he will start scheduling some more houses (8 or 10 more). Mayor Hines said she doesn't see 512 or 514 S. Main Street because that one was on the list before some of the ones on it now. Mr. Gainey said that was a bigger house and would cost the City more to take down. Mr. Gainey said if he's not mistaken, he believes the house is in probate. He said he will have to get with Sheila about it because she has been in contact with a family member. Mr. Gainey said they had the property cleaned up and one of the family members sent a check for cleaning the property up. He said he don't know if they want to tear it down or fix it up. Councilman Gardner asked Mr. Gainey to give an update on the commercial properties. Mr. Gainey said when they started the demolition program they had 504 Lamar Highway (the old gas station) and when they sent them letters the property owners went ahead and took it down. Mr. Gainey said they went to court on the 10th of January and the Honorable Judge Stucks continued the case until March 28, 2018. He said Judge Stucks wanted both the sister and the brother to appear in court in front of him. Mr. Gainey said the sister said on March 10th that they were in contact with Burt Jordan Realtors and was ready to sign a contract to sell the property. He said it's now the 15th February and he hasn't seen a "for sale" sign yet. He said he's had several people call him about purchasing the property and doing several different things with it, but none of that's come to pass either. Mr. Gainey said Judge Stucks wanted to give them until the 28th March to seek legal representation if they wanted to, but his personal opinion, is he don't think he wants to make a decision; so, the 28th of March, we going to help make a decision. Councilman Milling said he saw something on the news two or three months ago where the Assistant City Manager in Hartsville was talking about the demolition program over there and it seemed to him that they speaking in terms of having received a large grant for doing that type of work and he doesn't know if the entire amount was the grant or whether it was a matching grant. Mr. Gainey said he thinks the Byerly Fund foots a lot of the bill for the demolition, but he knows they did just receive a grant to tear down 11 houses but he doesn't know how much it was for. He said the problem you run into is whenever you start getting grants for demolition, it falls under the greater project so then you have to do your asbestos sampling and asbestos abatement and that's one thing we were trying to avoid to save

the City money and that's why we went the route we did. Mr. Gainey said he thinks Hartsville tears houses down every year with grant funds, but this pushes them into the greater project criteria and that's why it costs them so much to tear those houses down. He said they took the house down at 202 Chalmers and they had a price before of approximately $2,900 to tear the house down if we sub it out and he thinks we spent about $1,100. Mayor Hines said, "So we still not checking for asbestos"? Mr. Gainey said we're staying out of the greater project criteria. Mayor Hines said what if one of the houses has asbestos in it. Mr. Gainey said we're not doing the sampling so we don't know if it has asbestos or not. He said as long as you're not in the greater project then you don't have to worry about it. Mayor Hines said, "But wouldn't that be kind of dangerous. I mean what if it has asbestos in it and you take it to the landfill, I thought you had to take it to a different place". Mr. Gainey said if you have property that has asbestos whenever the asbestos abatement contractor comes in he's going to put plastic in the dump truck and put the asbestos contained material in the dump truck and take it to the same landfill that we're taking our construction debris to. Councilman Milling said, "As I remember when you went through that with us, we've got an enclosed thing that's operator protected and I think Ms. Bruce had some concerns about that and you took care of those concerns". Mr. Gainey said we've got the enclosed cab and he told his operator to make sure they keep the cab closed when tearing down a house. Mr. Gainey said there's heat and air in the cab, so there's no need to have the cab open and it has HEPA filters in the filtering system.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Hines said the "Shower Ministry" at Trinity U.M. Church provided food, shelter and showers for the homeless during the snow and cold months. She said the homeless goes in at 6:00 PM and come out at 8:00 AM the next morning. Mayor Hines said she had the opportunity to go there one night and they had 10 homeless that were there. She said they feed them breakfast before they leave in the morning and they give them coats. Mayor Hines said she wanted to thank Trinity and Mrs. Angie Stone Godbold for doing and excellent job for the homeless.

Mr. Garland said County Council is going to have a work session next Monday, 2:00 PM at the Administrative Annex at the Sheriff's Department to talk about the future of the County Courthouse. He said they are giving strong consideration to splitting the duties of the court up, but at the meeting they are going to be proposing to keep the court functions downtown and

building a new courthouse but also building a new facility near the Sheriff's Department where the Treasurer's Office, the Assessor's Office and different of the County Government. Mr. Garland said if you want to find out what they are doing, the work session is next Monday at 2:00. He said he's been told that County Council wants to have a joint work session with Darlington City Council to discuss these options next month.

Bryant Gardner said we just had a new restaurant open on the Square "Fahrenheit 225" and he went there today for lunch and they have wonderful food. He said they are open Tuesday through Friday for lunch and dinner. He told Council to go and support it.

REMINDERS

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly City Council Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

_____

Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 6, 2018 AT 6:30 PM

PRESENT AT MEETING:
Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: Elaine Reed, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Mr. Alex Gainey, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Interim Police Chief Jimmy Davis, Ms. Anna Dewitt, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Mr. Coleman Cannon, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Audrey and Roger Gore, and a number of visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS
Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Councilman Bryant Gardner did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Upon motion of Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, to approve the Minutes of February 15, 2018, which unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA
Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner, to approve the meeting agenda, which unanimously carried.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK
Mrs. Rock said the DDRA invites businesses to network and learn about the DDRA programs and give feedback for future at their monthly Members' Breakfast on Wednesday March 28, 2018 at 8:00 AM at Takis Diner. She said breakfast will be provided for member businesses at no charge and

nonmembers who would like to attend the meeting are welcome for a nominal donation of $5.00 towards the meal. These meetings will be held the last Wednesday of each month at 8:00 AM through October at Takis Restaurant. Mrs. Rock said the Annual Taste of Darlington will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at the track "Too Tough to Tame" from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM in the infield garage area. She said they are accepting grillers, table hosts and sponsors. Mrs. Rock said the "Taste" being held on the 2nd Thursday in April leads into their 2018 season of "Bringing Downtown Alive" free concerts that will be held the second Thursday of the month (May through August) they will also have a free concert on the Friday of Race Week at Liberty Lane and Pearl Street) She said Johnny Glenn & the Chasers will perform on May 10th to kick off the series as well as a "Cruise In" by the Darlington Cruisers Car Show. The Bout Time Band of Darlington will perform on June 14th; Dustin James and Hank Edwards will perform on July 12th; they will hold a community karaoke party on August 9th and Radio Vibe will wrap up the season on August 31st. The concert committee is in the process of securing additional sponsors. She said Pepsi of Florence and Wilson Senior Care has already committed to assisting them with this project. Mrs. Rock said anyone interested in helping organize the concert can call her office or come to the next concert committee meeting at Mamma Mia's at 5:30 PM Tuesday, March 27th.

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

Ms. Hobbs said she is pleased to announce that they have twelve new or reestablished Chamber members. Ms. Hobbs said within the last two days she has had three businesses have come into the Chamber to inquire about opening businesses in our town, particularly, on the Square. She said she showed them the buildings that she knew was for sale as well as gave them Mrs. Rock's information so they could get additional information about grants, the incentives, etc. Ms. Hobbs thanked everyone who came to the Annual Banquet on February 1st. On March 24, 2018, the Greater Darlington chamber of Commerce and the Darlington County Recreation Commission will host an Easter Egg Hunt on the Courthouse grounds beginning at 11:00 AM. She said this is a free event for our community. She said the Easter Bunny will hide about 1,000 eggs for the children to find. Ms. Hobbs said the Chamber will host a new event called "Bowties and Pearls" on Saturday April 21, 2018 beginning at 6:30 with live music, bar-b-que, sweet tea, adult beverages, dancing and visiting. She said the backyard of South of Pearl is where the event will be held. The tickets are

$15.00 for the event. Ms. Hobbs said the Chamber of Commerce and Florence Chamber of Commerce will host a luncheon for Administrative Professionals Day on Wednesday April 25th at the SiMT Building at Florence-Darlington Technical College. The luncheon starts at 11:00 a.m. for the vendors/exhibitors and lunch and a program at 12:00. Ms. Hobbs said they will be doing something on Thursday May 10th at 1:00 PM that's totally different called "Open House Darlington". She said they have contacted realtors, owners of vacant buildings on the Square and in Darlington to sweep out the buildings and freshen them up and they will have an open house or "realtors caravan". She said they are inviting/advertising in Atlanta, Charlotte, Columbia, Greenville, Spartanburg, Charleston, Miami, Southern Living and Gardening? She said we're going to have people walking through our town looking at our properties and we want them to see our dream. Ms. Hobbs said they will have one of the trolleys from PDRTA doing a Historical Tour. She said at the end of the day they will come back to the Chamber for a cocktail reception and they can talk about it. Hopefully they will have some bankers there and all of the grant information, incentives from Lisa as well as codes, etc. Ms. Hobbs said she's hoping people will fall in love with our town, and if not, we've gotten great exposure. Ms. Hobbs said, as always, they are in the planning stages of Freedom Fest. Mr. Garland asked Ms. Hobbs if she was planning to ask the City of Darlington for money for Freedom Fest this year and she said, "of course I am". Mr. Garland asked Ms. Hobbs when she was planning to do that and she asked if she could do it now. Ms. Hobbs said she sent a letter to Mr. Garland requesting from the City the same contribution that they gave them last year. Mayor Hines told Ms. Hobbs to tell them why she needs the money and what happened last year. Ms. Hobbs said the fireworks did not go off because the fireworks company did not do what they were supposed to do. She said they came in several hours late and the fireworks got rained on because they did not cover them. She said they told Chief Cavanaugh that the fireworks were ruined and if pyrotechnics get wet when they dry out again you cannot reshoot them because they can blow up in your face. Ms. Hobbs said they chose not to set reset date because they did not want to use those and take the risk of someone getting maimed. She said the contribution from the City was not for fireworks, it was a "presenting sponsor". She said Freedom Fest was presented by City of Darlington and this is how it was billed. She said they have to rent the race track and it cost them $11,000 to hold Freedom Fest at the race track. Ms. Hobbs said they have to rent the track, they have to purchase tickets for the race, they have to use EPI Security and they have to have additional security.

She said that's almost $11,000 just for those services. Ms. Hobbs said they have to rent port-a-johns and they have to rent dumpsters. Ms. Hobbs said it's a wonderful facility and they are proud of it, but it's a cost to use it and maintain it. She said the City's donation went into the general fund for Freedom Fest. She said the band and the children's rides were over $20,000. She said they hope to do more this year. Ms. Hobbs said they have approximately $30,000 worth of children's rides this year, if they can afford it. She said they want to continue to make it bigger and better. She said it was written up in Southern Living as one of the top festivals in the State. Ms. Hobbs said she is continuing to look at ways to cut costs. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland if they need to make a motion to approve the funding request and Mr. Garland nodded, "Yes". Mr. Garland said the City has given the Chamber $15,000 the last four years. Mr. Garland said we've been one of the anchor sponsors and until the County started their hospitality tax the City was the largest sponsor and he believes the County matches it now. Ms. Hobbs said they plan to ask the County this year. She said one of her large sponsors turned her down this year. Mayor Hines said she's been to Freedom Fest the past four years and it benefits 98% of Darlington. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve $15,000 for Freedom Fest. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

MR. LEE ANDREWS – BASEBALL & SOFTBALL FIELDS

Mr. Andrews said about two weeks ago they had a press conference announcing that we were going from Dixie and Little League to one league in Darlington and that was Little League. He said an entire week prior to the announcement there were a lot of things on social media about how this was a "fail" and they wouldn't get anybody signed up. Mr. Andrews said he just wanted to report the numbers for signups tonight. He said in the past there's been about 217 kids in Dixie and probably 117 at Little League. He said at the end of business today they had 283 kids signed up just for baseball. They had 135 girls sign up for softball. He said everybody was worried about people leaving and going to different places to play, but the numbers prove that the kids are here. He asked Council to keep this in mind when they make their vote. Mr. Andrews said Blue Street is not going to hold that number of kids. He said they have outgrown Blue Street with what they have right now just on parking alone. He said we've got to keep that in mind when we're doing this. He said it's going to be fun this year but it's going to be crowded. Mr. Andrews said the kids will not have to travel

unless they want to because they have enough children for a number of teams.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-01 – DIGITAL SIGN ORDINANCE Mayor Hines said we will have to table this. Mr. Garland said we have to have a public hearing in April because it involves a fee and that's why we are tabling it at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

A) PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSION ON OAK AND NORTH STREET – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Lisa Rock said Mrs. Kay Pierson, Chairman of the Historic Landmark Commission is present as well and can help answer any questions they may have. Mrs. Rock said the Historic Landmark Commission would like to expand their residential historic district. She said they have three residential historic districts and two commercial historic districts. She said this would extend the protection of the historic district and keep more of the character in their homes and neighborhoods. Mrs. Rock said the commission feel that this will enhance the City by capitalizing on what Darlington has going for it-its place as a charming historic town. She said this initiative was started by a homeowner's request (at corner of Oak & North Streets). She said all the research the Commission has done is based on the State survey of the properties. Mrs. Rock said they have identified several areas that they would like to extend the districts and the Commission members have been going door to door talking with neighbors to see if they want to participate. Mrs. Rock said at this time the Commission is proposing to expand the Cashua/Spring district by adding the properties along North & Oak Streets (on North Street from Evangeline all the way to Spring and on Oak Street until you get to the nursing home and Mrs. Carrigan's house). This will add an additional 15 properties to that district. She said committee members have been in contact with homeowners about the benefits of being in the historic district. She said once the homeowners are added to the City's historic district they plan to assist homeowners in applying for the State's recognition so that the tax credits will be available to them for major improvements. Mrs. Rock said there are two levels of this. She said this will open up the opportunity for homeowners that if they have improvements of $15,000 or more, as long as you're keeping the historic character (you do a little bit of extra paperwork and you get a 20% tax credit). Mrs. Rock told Council with their approval they will proceed to notify the property owners. They will have to have an ordinance and first and second readings. She said

the Commission wanted to get Council's approval before they move forward and sending proper notifications to all the property owners, certified letters, etc. before they presented Council with an ordinance. Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Rock if everybody on the list has been notified of certain things they have to do under the historic. Mrs. Rock said the main thing with living in the historic district is the exterior. She said they want it to maintain the character of historic period the house was built in. she said if you're having to make repairs or replacement, then you would place things in the same kind, color, etc. of what would have been done in that era. Such as, if you have shingle siding, you would put siding back. Mrs. Rock said as far as getting the tax credits for the State, this is all filtered down from the U.S., Department of Interior rules. Councilwoman Reed said being a member of St. James United Methodist Church, they tried to get the old parsonage declared a historic building, but when it came to the building, because changes had already been made then it didn't meet the standards. Councilwoman Reed said, "In this situation, with so many houses (15) I would imagine that there's already been upgrades, repairs or whatever, are we sure that that's already meeting these standards"? Mrs. Rock said from the exterior obviously we just can't walk into someone's home. She said most of the folks that wants this tax credit wants it for the roofs and if they've got to redo the siding. Mrs. Rock said these homes were already identified in the State survey as fitting into the district based on the federal standards. Mrs. Rock said, take the old post office for instance, it's not historic because they have changed so many things inside. Councilwoman Reed said along the way, they need to know this upfront. Mrs. Rock said this will be included in the packet that they send to get the homeowners on the National Register through the State. Mrs. Rock said for the City's purposes our ordinance does not include anything on the interior. Councilman Milling said, "You spoke of that it would be protection for the people in the district, what do you mean when you say "protection for the people"? Mrs. Rock said that they will continue to have the character of the neighborhood. Councilman Milling asked, "How does that relate to the person whose next door to the historic district who wants to put up their Frank Lloyd Wright home? Mrs. Rock said we don't have jurisdiction over that if they are not in the historic district. Councilman Milling said there are a couple of houses on North Street that are smaller rental properties; Mrs. Rock interjected and said those are the folks they had a little trouble getting in touch with. She said one of those properties was recently sold in the last few months and they would have to go talk with that person. Councilman Bryant Gardner said he would be interested in a description and addresses so

he will know which homes they are talking about for the historic district. He said he want to protect these homes, but when you go down Broad Street you can see homes that haven't been kept up that much. Councilman Gardner said if you put too many restrictions on it then he's worried people want be able to afford to keep up the homes. Mrs. Rock said there's a certain amount of misperception about what being in the historic district is. Councilman Gardner said he's not opposed to this but there will be a challenge to offer someone to pay $20,000-$50,000 in wood siding when they can get vinyl. He said it may be an economic challenge for some people in our community and that is what he's worried about. He said that neighborhood is very worried about the encroachments of the businesses around there and we want to protect them and he wants to make sure he knows which properties this involves and right now, he doesn't. Councilman Gardner said he doesn't have any opposition to it, but he would like to know the physical addresses of the properties because they don't recognize where the blocks are on the maps Mrs. Rock provided. Councilman Gardner asked Mrs. Rock if they can get a map of the actual historic district in this area with the addresses of the proposed historic district included that they can have a fair representation of what they are doing? Mrs. Rock said, "Certainly". Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Rock if she wanted them to vote on this tonight. Mrs. Rock said they just wanted to know how they should move forward; If they should they proceed with an ordinance or not. Mayor Hines said we need to look at this some more before we can make a determination. Councilman Milling asked Mrs. Rock if the historical commission determines if whether a hardship is going to be allowed. Mrs. Rock said if you have a historic home in the district and you want to make a change (you are trying to do something different than what is there), you must go to the Historic Commission to get permission to make the change. Mrs. Rock said when you present your case you can state that you don't have the means to complete this that manner and that is up to the historic commission. Councilman Milling asked if that final decision lies with the historic commission or do they appeal to the courts or is there a provision where if the historical commission does not allow it, it comes before city council. Mr. Garland said the decision is up to the Landmark Commission and it's not something that can be appealed directly to City Council, it has to go to Circuit Court. Councilman Gardner asked if the economic hardship appeal be done to the historical commission and Mr. Garland said, "Yes". Councilman Milling said, "So if Council wanted input, we would need to make that change in the ordinances as well"? Mr. Garland said, "Correct". Mr. Garland said maybe they need to revisit and educate

Councilmembers as to where our historic districts are and how many houses we have in our historic district. He said we have a commercial historic, a partial historic on the Square, historic district for the St. John's Area, West Broad & East Broad Streets and Spring & Cashua historic district. He said all together we probably have more than 150 properties. Mrs. Rock said we currently have 192 properties in the historic district.

B) MR. LEVERNE MOODY – SIDEWALK REPAIR ON NORTH MAIN STREET Mr. Moody said he has property at 439, 437 & 433 N. Main Street and people dug up the sidewalk about four months ago and it looks really bad. Mr. Moody said it's tearing up people's cars where they dug it up. He said he understands that AT&T hired some Mexicans to fix this, but he stopped right there at his property and his property is dug up now. Mr. Moody said he doesn't know what to do, but he believes he contacted the wrong people and should have contacted the building department. Mr. Moody said he spoke with Mr. Garland about a month ago, but he didn't know who had done the work. Mr. Garland said, "No Sir, I think I told you it was AT&T". Mr. Moody said, "No, no, you didn't know who it was". Mr. Moody said, Anyway, I need your help to get this repaired. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he could get the City Attorney and write a letter to AT&T? Mr. Garland said, "We've been in contact with AT&T with in the last week and they said they are going to have everything repaired including the sidewalk and the area in front of Mr. Moody's property by April 15th.

C) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-02 PURCHASE OF PROPERTY (165-04-01-005 – 4 ACRES); (165-00-02-010 – 13 ACRES); CORNER OF OLD FLORENCE HIGHWAY AND AVENUE D FOR $161,500

Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-02l Purchase of property (165-04-01-005 – 4 acres; 165-00-02-010 – 13 acres, corner of Old Florence Highway and Avenue D for a cost of $161,500. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

D) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-03 PURCHASE OF VIRGIL WELLS STADIUM (165-11-01-048); BALLFIELD AND TENNIS COURTS (165-11-01-038 FROM DARLINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR $100,000 – MR. LEE ANDREWS

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-03 – Purchase of Virgil Wells Stadium (165-11-01-048); Ballfield and Tennis Courts (165-11-01-038) from Darlington County School District for $100,000. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. All approved the motion except Councilman Segars who voted against the motion.

E) SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2018-04 PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE FOR PLAYGROUND (164-15-02-055); (164-15-02-056); & (164-15-02-060) FOR $80,500 LOCATED AT 207 SISKRON STREET (OLD POBOY'S SEAFOOD BLDG)
Councilman John Milling made motion to approve the purchase of the Siskron Street property (164-15-02-055); (164-15-02-056) & (164-15-02-060) for $80,500 – 207 Siskron Street. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

F) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-05 ANNEXATION (164-05-02-020) NORTH MAIN STREET BESIDE DARLINGTON AMUSEMENT COMPANY Mayor Hines said this is the area beside Darlington Music Company. They want to put a Dollar General Store.
Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, First Reading on Ordinance 2018-05 Annexation (164-05-02-020) North Main Street beside Darlington Amusement Company, which unanimously carried.

G) VACTOR TRUCK PROPOSED LEASE/PURCHASE – MR. GARLAND Mr. Garland said he has a proposal from United Financial and they gave three options for funding a vactor truck. Mr. Garland recommends going with option #3 which is ten payments consisting of $44,216 a year and it works out to roughly $460,000. He suggests that they split the cost between the Water & Sewer Department and the Street Department. Mr. Garland said they need this because the jet vac truck helps all of Darlington. He said as far as staffing is concerned, we'll have to address that with our new budget after July 1st. Mr. Garland also suggests that we put in the order for the jet vac truck, but we don't have it delivered until July so that way the payment want be due until the next year. Mr. Garland said this is sorely needed and while we're getting ready to move ahead with a multimillion dollar project for a part of town, this helps with all of the town. Mayor Hines asked if this equipment will suck out the water that settles around Hardees, Joe's Grill and around the Square. Mr. Garland

said it can be done for that, but it will also clean out the storm lines. Mr. Kinsaul said the truck is a combination truck which is a vacuum truck and it has a high pressure jetter that's used to clean out the sewer lines. He said you can feed the jetter down the sewer line and it washes all of the debris out of the sewer line and the vacuum part of it, vacuums out the catch basins and collect all of the debris in the storm drains. Mr. Kinsaul said there's a big tank on the truck and everything is self-contained in the truck. Mr. Kinsaul said liquid like sewer would have to be dumped at the waste treatment plant and the other would have to be dumped somewhere around the street department and be disposed of it at the landfill or somewhere else. Mr. Kinsaul said it's a useful truck and almost every city has one. He said staffing it will be the hard part. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul how much will come out of his capital budget for this and Mr. Kinsaul said he will budget over $20,000 for this. Mr. Garland said it will be the same for street and sanitation. Mr. Kinsaul said he just paid Sellers Septic Tank $3,500 for a one-day job to suck out one lift station. Mayor Hines asked where will keep the truck and Mr. Kinsaul said they will park it at the Street Department. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Kinsaul how many times a year do you use someone like Sellers and how much money does it cost on average? Mr. Kinsaul said he has used him six times so far this budget year and it's probably $7,000 or $8,000. Mr. Kinsaul said Sellers gave them a break on the $3,500 charge for the one-day service, but the normal charge would have been $5,500. Mr. Garland said a good example of this is the disastrous weather we had in 2015 and 2016 when the Allen Street station overflowed we would have has the capability to clean it out ourselves instead of having to beg for somebody to come in and do it. Mr. Kinsaul said they had to get a truck to come in and keep sucking out to try and get the flow down. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland if he's proposing that we take delivery in 2018-19 fiscal year and make payment in the 2019-20 fiscal year and Mr. Garland said, "Correct". Councilman Milling asked if we get the same price and Mr. Garland said, "Yes". Councilwoman Bruce said she asked the question at the last council meeting about the use of the truck from the outside service and it was stated that we use it five to ten times a year and it costs us anywhere from $3,000 - $4,000. She said if we use it ten times a year, we're talking about paying an outside service $40,000. Mr. Kinsaul said it depends on how much we use. Councilwoman Bruce said at $7,000, which we use on an overage of ten times a year, she's trying to see if it's beneficial for them to purchase a truck that we're only going to use on an average of ten times a year for $400,000. Mr. Kinsaul said what you want to do, and right now it's going to be tough, is to staff it where it's running

about everyday doing storm water cleaning. Mr. Garland said that's the idea; we have to start cleaning or storm water drains. Mr. Kinsaul told Councilwoman Bruce he thinks she is figuring on what the sewer department is using. Mr. Kinsaul said storm drains that aren't being cleaned out and full of debris (provided they can get a crew to staff it) is where the real use will be. Councilwoman Bruce said, "So the figure you gave me last month was just on sewer" and Mr. Kinsaul said, "Yes, those figures are his figures coming out of the sewer budget. Mayor Hines said, "So you're saying if we start cleaning out all the storm drains, we will come up with $400,000 a year with calling people to come in and do it"? Mr. Kinsaul said it will be a lot of use if we could get the crew to run this truck several days a week cleaning storm drains and we'll never get through. Councilwoman Bruce asked why would it be hard to staff it? Mr. Kinsaul said we'll have to hire at least two people and they have to have CDL's. Mr. Garland suggested that we hire one person in the water and one in the street department. Mr. Kinsaul said with what we're going to have to pay these people including benefits, you're looking at two to three times what the truck payment is going to be. Councilwoman Bruce said, "So the money is not in the budget" and Mr. Kinsaul said the money is not in the budget until we come up with something creative in the budget sessions. Councilwoman Reed said, "So that may have been the fact as to why you haven't done it. Mr. Kinsaul said the truck is a wonderful piece of equipment, but to put $400,000 in it for it to sit there if you can't use it would be like Councilwoman Bruce said; it would be better to rent or lease one when you need it. Mr. Garland said the street sweeper is a good example. We have a $200,000 street sweeper, but Kendrick runs it maybe five times a month. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus said, "So the storm drain lines that's draining into these ditches that haven't been cleaned out in 30-40 years, how is that going to benefit that area"? "What are you going to do about the ditches"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "It won't help the ditches, but the (Hardee – Broad Street area) if you clean that drain all the way out to Grove Hill to get it to the ditch, it will be an improvement. Councilwoman Baccus said once you clean all of that out, that water is going to drain into S. Darlington, and if those ditches are not flowing or clearing out, then all of that water is going to sit in S. Darlington. Mr. Kinsaul said the County dropped their South Darlington Storm water project. He said all we're trying to do is get the water off the street and get it out of downtown. Councilwoman Baccus said that's the same issues; you're still dumping it in S. Darlington. Councilman Bryant Gardner said, "Technically, wouldn't that be dumped behind Grove Hill"? Mr. Kinsaul said there's seven outfalls away from the City. He said the ditch will go into

an outfall behind where the old cotton mill was into Swift Creek. The Hardees, Hampton, Broad Street area runs into a ditch that will run down to Swift Creek off Old Florence Road. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul if he has a map of all the storm drains over the City of Darlington and Mr. Kinsaul said, "No", they have partials in the storm water study that Ms. Lathan did. Mayor Hines said, "Well, don't you think we need to find out where all of the storm drains are before we invest in this"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "We know where a lot of them are because the storm water study has a lot of them in it". Mayor Hines said," I heard you say about sucking the water out of the downtown area; what about the storm drains all over the City'? Mayor Hines said you need to go and try to clean them out also. Mr. Kinsaul said, "What you want to do is work a street all the way to the end and strategically work each street". Mayor Hines said, "We need to know where they are first and how many you have before we get this". Councilwoman Sheila Baccus said, we need to do a little bit more research before we buy this. Councilman Bryant Gardner said, "Hold up, I'm sorry, please Council, please reconsider this". He said this is something that the whole city can use. He said, "This is something that every storm water pipe in the City, this is something every wastewater can use; we can use this". Councilman Gardner asked Mr. Kinsaul how many years they can run every day until they catch up. Mr. Kinsaul said they are willing to finance for ten years to life and it should run ten years. Councilman Gardner asked Mr. Kinsaul how many years he thinks we can go before we get back to the first pipe we started on and Mr. Kinsaul estimated five to ten years. Councilman Gardner said, "We can go five to ten years, day after day cleaning out our pipes and we think we need to wait to figure out which pipes we need to clean first"? Mayor Hines said, "It's a good thing and we need that, but we need to know how many storm drains we have over the City". Councilman Gardner said, "I don't think we need to know how many storm drains we have over the City before we figure out if we need to start cleaning them". He said we need to start cleaning our ditches and then figure out what our storm water issue is. Mayor Hines said it should have been cleaned 60 years ago and we can't do it overnight. Councilman Gardner said, "We need to worry about not having an actual comprehensive storm water plan that includes our whole City". Councilwoman Baccus said, "We do have a five-year plan". Councilman Gardner said, "We don't have a plan that covers the whole City". From the audience, Ms. Lathan said, "That's not true". Mayor Hines said the storm water plan that she saw was for the whole City and told Councilman Gardner she does not know where he got that from. Councilman Gardner said, "I'll be happy to provide Council and Jannie

Lathan a map that shows where we have a storm water plan and where we don't. He said we don't have a storm water plan that includes the Country Club, Oakdale, anything like Spring Mart or the other side of Spring Street. Councilwoman Reed said because of the situation in the area where they are doing the storm water project, she does see the value in the truck. She said she's not opposed to anything, but she sees the opposition to the present S. Darlington storm water project and then they come up with the truck. Councilwoman Reed said, "It's like where was this idea prior to this"? Mr. Garland asked Council to strongly consider this. He said he's in favor of doing S.W. Darlington storm water project, but he's also in favor of doing something for the rest of Darlington now. Mr. Garland said he wants to help out S.W. Darlington to get that project completed in a timely manner, but he also wants to show the rest of the town that we're going to be willing to do something to help them out also. Mr. Garland implored Council to approve and move forward with ballfields, move forward with storm water and to move forward with getting the vactor truck. Mayor Hines said when she was talking she was not saying she didn't want it, she just want to be sure that when we get it, we will use it the right way. Councilwoman Bruce said, "Mr. Garland you just said something that concerns me and I don't think we need to me making decisions "tit for tat". She said she was asking Mr. Kinsaul for the cost factor and if you've got to show the other side of town that we're going to do something on the Southside with the storm water project. Councilwoman Bruce said, "All of a sudden here comes a vactor truck that probably should have been purchased 30 years ago". Mr. Kinsaul said they did have a vactor truck at one time. Councilwoman Bruce said this water project isn't something that just happened overnight or two years ago. She said it's almost like we're doing something "tit for tat" and that doesn't sit well with her. She said she wants to do what's right for the City, but don't do something "tit for tat". Councilwoman Bruce told Mr. Garland the comment he made concerns her. She said if this is something that we truly need, then we need to get this, but if this is something we just want to do because we're doing something on one side of town and you want to please the other side of town, then we're not doing what Councilman Gardner said in his prayer when we started this meeting and that concerns her. **Councilman Milling made a motion that we go with option #3 and hire the people that we need to operate this piece of equipment. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion.** Mr. Garland said a lady that lives at 382 W. Broad Street came by his office complaining that for the last four years whenever there's a heavy rain, her house floods (she has lost several heat pumps and had to replace the ductwork multiple times) and if the City didn't

do something to help her and her neighbors, she was going to sue the City. He said the lady asked if the S.W. Darlington storm water project would address her needs and he told her "No", but there was an item on tonight's agenda that may be able to help her by cleaning out the lines around the property where she lives. Mr. Garland told Councilwoman Bruce that's where what he said came from. Councilwoman Bruce said she's just saying, decisions do not need to be made like that. She said, "You've got to be careful with comments and things that we say because it can be perceived the wrong way. Councilman Milling said we had a motion and a second and would ask that we call for a vote on the question. **All approved the motion.**

Commented [w1]:

H) MS. ANNA DEWITT – CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Ms. Anna Dewitt, representing the Darlington Rescue Squad said they sponsor the annual Christmas Parade. She said in 2017 a new committee took over the parade and after thinking of a way to keep people downtown for the Tree Lighting Ceremony, the idea of having a festival to tie the parade into the tree lighting came to mind. Ms. Dewitt said they have many ideas but due to the fact they are a small organization they lack the funding needed to sponsor such an event. She said this is where the City comes in because we have the money to fund their ideas. She said the Annual Christmas Festival will kick off with the Christmas Parade and close with the Tree Lighting. She said some of the changes they are proposing will be reversing the parade route to start at Fitness World, to add more bands and offer them $300 to participate, provide affordable floats for $50, have more music, choirs on floats; they would like to have 4 minutes of fireworks, inflatables, etc. Councilman Gardner asked Ms. Dewitt how much money she was asking for and she said $10,000. Councilwoman Bruce asked Ms. Dewitt what the name of her organization was and she said it's the Darlington Rescue Squad which is the same as it's always been, they just have a new committee. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland when would he start the budget process and Mr. Garland said he's been working on it the last five weeks. Councilman Milling told Ms. Dewitt that we need to have a budget meeting so they'll have some sense of how much of the hospitality tax money we actually have. Mayor Hines told Ms. Dewitt they will let her know something after the budget meetings. Councilwoman Reed said the parade was beautiful but one thing was offensive to her-there was a group that had confederate flags on their vehicles. Ms. Dewitt said she didn't see anything and was not aware of it. There was discussion about ways to prevent this from happening at future parades. Ms. Dewitt said she hate to tell people they can't come because of different things. She said she doesn't

want anyone to be offended, but she also doesn't want to start down that path of, "You can't come because of this or that". Councilman Gardner asked Ms. Dewitt if she can work on somebody to come that can sing Christmas carols while walking in the parade? Ms. Dewitt said that's what they are talking to the Churches about, but they will ride on the floats and sing rather than walk in the parade. Mayor Hines asked Chief Cavanaugh if during the 12 or 15 years they were over it, did they have the confederate flags in the parade. Chief Cavanaugh said not to his knowledge, but Mr. Dwayne Weatherford watched people come through when they started the parade. Chief Cavanaugh said it was so crowded this time it was hard to control people coming in. Mayor Hines asked if participants have to pay to be in the parade and Ms. Dewitt said, "Yes" and they had one entrance coming in, but everybody started coming at one time and even from the side streets. Mayor Hines told Ms. Dewitt she was on the side when two cars with confederate flags passed by. Ms. Dewitt said she didn't see it and she is not sure who the group was. Mayor Hines said what she's wondering why when the Fire Department had it what made it that they rushed in this year. Ms. Dewitt said the Fire Department never had the Christmas Parade, the Rescue Squad always had the Christmas parade they just had a different Christmas committee. Ms. Dewitt said the other committee members retired in October and Mr. Dwayne Weatherford talked with her about things they need to do for the parade. She said she is not sure about the group she is talking about or the cars. She asked if it was part of the Shriners? Councilman Gardner said he thinks it was the Shriners. Mayor Hines said she is wondering why they did it this year. Ms. Dewitt said how the Shriners work is you email one person and they email everybody and whoever shows up you have to give them a donation. Ms. Dewitt said you don't know before they show up that they were going to be there. Mayor Hines told Ms. Dewitt she doesn't think she understands what she saying, she kept asking her why it is this year they tried to move on in. Ms. Dewitt said she did not see them because there were so many people. Councilwoman Bruce said it was such a large parade and there was a big gap in some parts of it and people were leaving because they thought the parade was over, but she stayed because she knew the last group was a dance group. Councilwoman Bruce said if we can do something do, maybe start an hour earlier and Ms. Dewitt said one thing they can do to quicken the parade is stop throwing out candy. Ms. Dewitt said if the event become a night parade we will have to stop that. She said one suggestion was that if your group wants to throw out candy, then have them walk beside the float and throw the candy away from the road. Mayor Hines said having the parade at night

will be easier to stop it. Ms. Dewitt said they will have the Christmas Parade this year and the Darlington Rescue Squad will fund it, but they will not be able to do the Christmas Festival. She said they are trying to keep everybody downtown for the Tree Lighting and just have a community time where they fellowship and listen to Christmas music. Mayor Hines told Ms. Dewitt we will let her know something.

BOARDS/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – LISA ROCK

Ms. Rock said the Williamson Park Committee has two open seats. She said the first nominee is Ms. Nancy Atcock who lives on Spain Street and she is interested in serving on the committee. **Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilman John Segars to approve Ms. Nancy Atcock to the Williamson Park Committee, which unanimously carried.** Mrs. Rock said the second nominee brought by the Williamson Park Committee is Ms. Roseanne Brasington who lives on Woodland Drive. **Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded by Councilman John Segars, to appoint Ms. Roseanne Brasington to the Williamson Park Committee, which unanimously carried.**

COUNCIL COMMENTS

John Milling said it sound like when the Chamber was presenting its proposal that we're going to have an open house on May 10th where people will have a chance to look and drive around. He asked that Mr. Garland to make contact with Palmetto Paving this week and tell them what we're trying to do on May 10th to see how their schedule is going to fit on their paving on Cashua Street so that we don't run into a conflict. Councilman Milling said there should be some sympathy there for us because Palmetto Paving's senior group has a daughter that's married to one of their former residents and so there may be some help in getting them to cooperate with us. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if they have given him a deadline yet. Mr. Garland said they are supposed to start this month.

Bryant Gardner

Councilman Gardner said he thinks the Mayor discussed some issues about yard debris throughout the administration and he'd also like to discuss it. He said he don't know how they are going to go about it, but it looks like Council previously looked at different ways of working on this. Councilman Gardner said he thinks they need to revisit it because it seems that some citizens don't know that you can't put refrigerators and beds, etc. on the street. He said maybe they need to do a public service announcement on our

water bills or some way to educate the citizens. Mayor Hines said she use to tell the superintendent about that and it sends a mix signal to the customers because he would go and pick it up. Mayor Hines agreed with Councilman Gardner that this needs to be revisited. Councilman Gardner said a follow-up subject is about sidewalks. He said they discussed previously about possibly doing some outside hiring of employees to do grinding of the sidewalks. He said his girlfriend almost had an accident the other night and he would appreciate it if they would look into this. He said we have a serious liability and he would love for it to be addressed.

Carolyn Bruce

Councilwoman Bruce told Mr. Garland she wanted to publicly thank him for a job well done on the process of hiring the new Police Chief. She told him he got Council involved from the beginning which he didn't have to do. They went through all of the resumes and narrowed down to the finalist and then his decision was made. She also commended him for getting the public involved. Councilwoman Bruce told him the entire process went out he did an outstanding job.

Sheila Baccus

Councilwoman Baccus thanked Mr. Garland for cleaning up their neighborhoods and getting all of the trash off the street. She said it's time for Council to step up and do their jobs. She said they need to improve or change our ordinance. Councilwoman Baccus said they need to put an ordinance in place that says this is what they can and can't do and notify the public of what they can and can't do. She said right now the streets look good, but if they don't so something fast, its' going to be back out there again. She said the Street Department has done their jobs, Mr. Garland has done his job, now it's time for Council to do their job. Councilwoman Baccus said the new equipment they just brought, (she's ok with buying the machine), but she wants to see the machine working in all of Darlington (not just downtown only, not on the north side only; She needs to see this machine in S. Darlington, SW Darlington and everywhere cleaning out drains.

REMINDERS

Monday, March 12, 2018 at 6:00 PM – Swearing in Ceremony of Police Chief Kelvin Washington;
Tuesday March 13, 2018 at 6:00 PM – Special Meeting Darlington City Council, First Reading on New Storm Water Bond;

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON

SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018 AT 6:00 PM

The City of Darlington held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the Courtroom/Council Chambers located at 400 Pearl Street. Those in attendance included: Mayor Gloria C. Hines, Council Members: Mayor Pro-Tem Coleman Cannon, Councilpersons Carolyn Bruce, Elaine Reed, Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus and John Milling. Others attending included: City Manager, Howard Garland, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mrs. Joyce Thomas, Police Officer Jimmy Davis.

Mayor Hines called the meeting to order at 6 PM and she did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2018-06 MASTER STORM WATER ORDINANCE

Mayor Hines said we're here tonight for another first reading of ordinance 2018-06 Master Storm Water Ordinance because we added something to it. Mr. Garland said for the record this has been a confusing issue. He said this project started with an original grant application in October 2015 to S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority with the first grant application being rejected. We reapplied in March, 2016 for the same project (Chalmers Street ditch) and that project application was successful in June 2016 and the original amount was $445,000. He said we had a procurement process we went through to secure an engineer which was Mike Hanna Engineering out of Florence. Mr. Garland said they came back with the original PER which was done by Davis & Brown and said there was 72 acres which wasn't included in the original project and that needed to be included as a part of the outfall. The project was essentially designed just to work in the middle but it wasn't designed to take it all the way to the outflow. He said this is where the project sort of grew in size. Mr. Garland said the original estimate from Mike Hanna was going to be approximately $1.5 million dollars. He said we put it out for bid the first time and it came back with a low bid of

$2.8 million dollars. It was strongly suggested that we rebid this out, which is what we did. The second bid opening was in October with a low bid of $2.567 million dollars from Lands Down Earth & Pipe. Mr. Garland said they had a shortfall of over $1 million dollars and they struggled to try and come up with a way to pay for this. He said they first approached USDA about doing a Rural Development loan for 40 years and everything was looking good until Rural Development said we have to submit bid documents. Mr. Garland told them we already had the bid and that was per S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority bid documents and they told him he had to do their bid documents now. He said we can't do that because we've already bid the project. So, the USDA RD lane was closed and the only other avenue that we had to get the project done was to go to our Bond Attorney and ask him if there's any way we can combine any of the fees from other things that we charge and he said, "Yes" (the Sunday alcohol sales which was passed in January could be added to that). Mr. Garland asked Mr. Zeigler to get with First Tryon Financial and Tyler Trout to see if they would put this out for bid with some of the banking folks they have on their list and they found a bank that was interested and for the last three or four weeks they have been compiling the information they've asked for. Mr. Garland said to get this project completed and not lose the $445,000 in grant funds, they are executing this new Master Storm Water Ordinance and the Bond which is with Sterling Financial. Mr. Zeigler said Mr. Garland contacted him several months ago regarding this storm water project and the shortfall we were experiencing. He said we did a $1,350,000 Storm Water bond last year and this is the borrowing that is secured by and payable from that storm water fee. Mr. Zeigler said what we're able to do in terms of a revenue bond like this is constrained by the amounts we collect from the storm water fee. He said when they first looked at this they had a couple of different potential ways to handle it, but what they decided to try was to refinance the existing bond by rolling it in with the new money we need for the shortfall. He said if we did all that and just did it on the basis of the storm water fees it doesn't cover it, so they started looking for other options and Mr. Garland suggested the Sunday alcohol sales fee that we receive pursuant to a referendum we had last year. Mr. Zeigler said that statute has a list of things that you can pay for out of the fees and one of things is "drainage projects". He said there's no mechanism that says you can issue a bond that's secured by a pledge of the alcohol license fee, but what you can do is create a mechanism that allows the alcohol license fee subject to appropriation by Council every year to flow into this storm water system and have that money available in case you need it. Mr. Zeigler said they ended

up redoing the Master Ordinance. They did a Master Ordinance last year, but it didn't have any of the language that would allow the alcohol license fee. He said they did a new Master Ordinance that has a separate fund in it called the "Appropriations Fund" and from time to time Council can appropriate monies from any available sources including from the alcohol license fee. He said this gives that extra money to pay those bonds in case it's needed. He said you have the pledge of the storm water fee hardwired into the document and you have to use that money to pay the bonds and you also have the option, under the new Master Ordinance to appropriate part of your budget process every year, money from the alcohol license fee and as it comes in, it becomes restricted and has to be used to pay those bonds. He said those two together were enough to make this a saleable prospect for a bank. In order to make this all work, the term of the bond had to be longer than what we had. Mr. Zeigler said working with First Tryon, Mr. Garland was able to find Sterling National Bank which made a proposal with a 20-year term on the bond which is rare for bank placed bonds in this day and age. Mr. Zeigler said from a legal perspective we have this new Master Ordinance which will replace the old one, but we will be paying off those bonds that was issued under the old and then a new Series Ordinance which is the financing ordinance for the new bonds. He told Mayor & Council that he will need two separate votes on those ordinances when the time comes. Mayor Hines asked if the bond can be paid off in less than 20 years. Mr. Tyler Trout said, "That's right, but for the first five years the bank wants you to not repay them so in their documents they will have a "no call prepayment provision". He said in the first five years you cannot give them their money back, but after that, you can give them their money back. He said there is a period of time where they will charge you a 1% penalty, which is what we have in our current documents as well. Councilman Gardner asked if the 1% is for the entire loan. Mr. Zeigler and Mr. Trout said it will be on what's outstanding at that time. Mr. Trout said his firm is First Tryon located in Charlotte, NC and they help municipalities in North Carolina, South Carolina & Georgia borrow money. He said Mr. Zeigler is our legal expert, but they are our financial expert. Mr. Trout said their job is to get as many banks competing for our business as possible so you can get the best rates, best terms and provisions. He said Sterling National Bank in Charlotte, NC is going to loan us the money at a 4.15% fixed interest rate. He said it's not final yet, they want to wait until we get to the closing in early May before they lock that rate, so he's hopeful it will be around 4% or maybe 4.15% for a term of 20 years. He said the storm water revenue that we collect every year is about $135,000 and the payments on this bond will be about

$180,000 so of our temporary license fee which is about $75,000 we are expecting to collect on a yearly basis, $45,000 of it has got to go to pay this debt. He said finding a 20-year loan is relatively rare in this market because interest rates are rising and banks don't want to commit their capital for a long period of time. Mr. Trout said they were pleasantly surprised to get a 20-year loan and some of the feedback they got from the bank was that in addition to our storm water revenues the general financial health of the City made them feel comfortable enough to give us the loan. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Trout if this was a fixed rate and he said, "Yes, which is even more rare to get a fixed rate for 20-years". Mr. Zeigler wanted Council to keep in mind that the alcohol sales fee is not hardwired into these documents, so every year they have to remember to appropriate the money to that fund. Councilman Milling said, "But we always have to appropriate something". Mr. Zeigler said, "You don't have to appropriate and they can decide not to appropriate and that's part of the risk the bank is taking because they know full well that this Council and the successor will have the discretion to appropriate or not". He said they are counting on us that we will appropriate. He said if you don't want this to go into default, unless the storm water fees go up or collections come in better….Councilman Milling interrupted and said, "Am I correct, if it went into default then they will have the right to come in and set storm water fees at whatever they want". Mr. Zeigler said, "Potentially, yes Sir". Mr. Zeigler said there is a covenant in the ordinance that says you are going to maintain rates at a level along with other available funds to pay for these bonds. He said, so you have a duty that if we don't have the money, to put on the rates necessary. Councilman Gardner asked if they looked at the cost difference because he understands bundling them into one bond, but it seems like we will be giving up the 3.16%. Mr. Zeigler said the problem is that the outstanding bond holder has rights to prevent this new bond from being issued, so in order to be able to do the second piece, we pretty much had to take the old one out and wrap them all together into one. Mr. Trout said even if they were legally allowed to do that the new bank wouldn't want to loan you the money because their principal repayment would come after the 15-year term of the BB&T loan. Mr. Garland wanted to note that we currently have $166,000 in the storm water fee and project by the time first payment is due in November we'll collected another $66,000 for a total of $232,000 in the account. He said the first two payments could come out of the storm water fee account independent of the Sunday alcohol collections. Councilman Milling said then we wouldn't have any more money in the storm water account to do any other storm water projects. **Mayor Hines made a motion to accept the**

First Reading on Ordinance 2018-06 Master Storm Water Ordinance. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilman Milling said he's not opposed to things to help the City, but he couldn't vote for this the first time around and he's just not going to be able to vote for this the second time around. Councilman Gardner said he's really concerned that the project has grown from a $400,000 project, to a $2.3 million-dollar project and it's now a $2.7 million-dollar project. He said it's just growing and growing and we're going to put our City at a disadvantage from a storm water standpoint for 20 years. He said that's very scary from a financial standpoint for his children's future. Councilman Milling asked if we've been told by our legislative delegation (because they previously indicated they could come up with $1 million-dollars in funding to cover this shortfall) that they are not able to come up with that money? Mayor Hines said they haven't told her anything and Mr. Garland said he has not heard anything either. Councilman Milling asked if they have any opportunity to wait and see what the legislative delegation does or doesn't do before we step forward or do we vote now and come back in April. Mr. Zeigler said you can always defer second reading. He said it doesn't hurt to give it a first reading and whenever you see what's happening you can kick second reading down the road if you need to. Councilman Gardner asked if Council is comfortable with that? Councilwoman Reed said, "Just like you may have reservations, I have assurances and that's where I'm going". She said we didn't get this far for it not to be, it's absolutely necessary. Councilwoman Reed said just like you all feel like we needed to spend a half million on a truck to do it. This is what it's going to cost to get the project done and it will help more than one section of town. Mayor called point of order. Councilman Gardner asked if discussion has ended. Mayor Hines told him that he's had two chances to speak, Mr. Milling had two chances to speak and Ms. Reed had a chance. Mayor Hines allowed Councilman Gardner to ask a question. Councilman Gardner said, "So, if we pass both of readings we can't pay a dollar into it for the first five years so even if our Senator or House of Representatives was able to get us funds we couldn't appropriate them to this for five years, is that correct"? Mr. Zeigler said you can pay into it as much as you want, you just couldn't pay the bond off. Councilman Gardner wanted to know if we get a $500,000 grant can we pay it on the bond. Mr. Trout said with the current structure if you've got $500,000 and wanted to pay it on the loan and no longer be charged interest on that amount, they would say the documents states that you have to wait for the five-year period before you can do that, but because we have the potential for a grant that's coming through, they can have them write into the documents that it is subject to "no call for 5 years

except in the case where we receive grant money or one time payments". Councilman Gardner asked if the interest rate is negotiable and Mr. Trout said, "No, at this point, it's not". Mr. Trout said they've taken proposals at the 20-year term and there aren't any other banks willing to compete for that loan. He said it's not an unusual rate. **All voted for the motion except Mr. Milling who voted against it.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCING FOR SOUTHWEST DARLINGTON STORM WATER PROJECT

Councilwoman Bruce made a motion for approval of financing for Southwest Darlington Storm Water Project. Councilwoman Baccus seconded the motion. All voted for the motion except Councilmen Milling and Bryant Gardner who voted against the motion.

Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland to contact the Legislative Delegation and see what their position is. Mr. Garland said, "Sure".

SELECTION DARLINGTON COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX COMMISSION

Mayor Hines said we received a letter from the County asking for an appointee to this committee. She said they need to pick someone that knows about the courthouse and the necessity of the courthouse remaining in Darlington. Councilman Gardner said he thought Ronnie Ward spoke very eloquently and represented our City very well and would think that Council would be in support of putting him on the committee. Councilwoman Reed said she is in support of Ronnie Ward because he did an excellent job. Councilman Milling said he appreciates Ronnie Ward that volunteered to get himself on the agenda and being the former Mayor he's familiar with the necessity and need for these offices to be in Darlington. Councilwomen Bruce and Baccus were both in support of Ronnie Ward being on the committee. **Upon motion of Councilman Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Reed, to nominate Mr. Ronnie Ward to represent the City of Darlington for the Darlington County Capital Project Sales Tax Commission, which unanimously carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilman John Milling the meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
SPECIAL MEETING (EXECUTIVE SESSION) AT 6:00 PM &
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
APRIL 3, 2018

PRESENT AT MEETING:
Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: Elaine Reed, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington and Chevron Scott.

Mayor Hines called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Councilman John Segars did the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Sheila Baccus made a motion to go into executive session at 6:04 PM to discuss economic development: contract possible negotiations rental of municipal courtroom and contract negotiations - Police Department vehicle lease and Police Department personnel. The City of Darlington may or may not vote after closed executive session. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved.

Mayor Hines made a motion at 6:51 PM to end the executive session. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion.

Councilman Milling made a motion that we enter into a lease with Enterprise in leasing of two vehicles to be used by the narcotics division and to sell the existing vehicles that we have and to utilize those funds to pay for the first six months of each lease for those two vehicles. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved.

Councilwoman Reed asked Mayor Hines if they could move item 7D up to 7A because Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce was not feeling well and would be leaving right after the second reading on the storm water ordinance. Councilman Milling made a motion to amend that motion that if we are going to move it up, move it up to right after approval of the meeting agenda (item 4A). Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

5 MINUTE BREAK

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT AT MEETING:
All listed above and Mrs. Joyce Thomas, Mr. Robert Thomas, Mr. Linwood Epps, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Ronda Brown, Mrs. Rosena James, Mr. Kinsaul, Assistant Police Chief Jimmy Davis, and a number of visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS
Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Councilwoman Sheila Baccus did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, to approve the Minutes of March 6, 2018 & March 13, 2018 Council meetings, which unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA
Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, to approve the meeting agenda as been amended, which unanimously carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

STORM WATER MASTER BOND
Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-06 – Master Storm Water Ordinance. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. Councilman Milling said we have now entered into a contract for this and he doesn't want the City to be known as somebody that doesn't honor its contract. He said he is going to vote for it, but he would like for Mr. Garland to get together for them where this $2.78 million is going to be spent (How much is the contract, engineering, how much is consulting, etc.). Councilman Milling said he would like a full breakdown of where our money went. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he has that information. Mr. Garland

said we have some of the information, but we don't have the bond finalized yet. He said once they have everything finalized and everything is signed he will be glad to give a breakdown to Councilmembers. Mr. Garland said we expect to sign this the first or second week in May. **All voted for the motion except Councilman Segars, who voted against the motion.**

Mr. Garland told Council they need to vote separately now on the actual project itself (the bond). He said everything is bundled together, but they need to vote for the bond attorney. Mr. Garland said this is actual storm water bond itself ($2.75 million for the Southwest Darlington Storm Water Project). **Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the $2.7 million bond to pay for the storm water project. Councilman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion except Councilman John Segars who voted against the motion.**

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said the DDRA is going to make Darlington the place to be on the 2nd Thursday of the month, April – August as they start a series of events. The Annual Taste of Darlington will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at the track "Too Tough to Tame" from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM in the infield garage area. Mrs. Rock said the "Taste" will lead into their 2018 season of "Bringing Downtown Alive" free concerts. She said Johnny Glenn & the Chasers will perform on May 10th to kick off the series; The Bout Time Band of Darlington will perform on June 14th; Dustin James and Hank Edwards will perform on July 12th; they will hold a community karaoke party with S&T Entertainment on August 9th and Radio Vibe on August 31st during race week. Mrs. Rock said the concert committee is in the process of securing additional sponsors. She said they already have Pepsi of Florence and Wilson Senior Care on board. She said anyone interested in helping organize the concerts can call her office or come to the next concert committee planning meeting at Mamma Mia's on Thursday at 5:30 PM April 26th. She said they also invite their businesses to network and learn about the DDRA program and give feedback for future projects at their monthly members breakfast. The next meeting is 8:00 AM Wednesday April 25, 2018 at Takis Diner. Breakfast will be provided for member businesses at no charge and nonmembers who would like to attend are welcome to contribute $5.00 towards the meal. Mrs. Rock said on Saturday,

April 28, 2018 they will be meeting at the Chamber at 8:30 AM for Clean Up Darlington Day. She said the more volunteers that show up will determine how many projects and areas they can tackle. She said if you can't attend on that particular Saturday, she encourages people to clean up their street or neighborhood or help a neighbor with their property.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –MS. RONDA BROWN

Ms. Brown said she is pleased to announce that they have a ribbon cutting on April 10, 2018 at 10:30 AM for Gentle Care Adult Day Health Services located at 212 Asbury Street. Ms. Brown said the Spring Fling was held on March 24, 2018. She said it took them two hours to hide over 1,000, but it took the children only 30 minutes to find every egg. Upcoming Events: Bowties & Pearls will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2018 beginning at 6:30 with live music, bar-b-que, sweet tea, adult beverages, dancing and visiting. She said the backyard of South of Pearl is where the event will be held. The tickets are $15.00 for the event. Ms. Brown said The Chamber of Commerce and the Florence Chamber of Commerce will host an Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon on Wednesday April 25, 2018, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the SiMT Building at Florence-Darlington Technical College. Ms. Brown said on Thursday May 10th the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce is hosting "Open House Darlington". She said the realtors have come together and they will have their properties open and hopefully buyers from all over will come to our historic town dreaming the same dream that we have. She said the opening of the event will start at 1:00 PM and they hope that anybody that has a commercial building(s) and would like to enter them in, would contact the Chamber. Ms. Brown said during the afternoon they will have one of the trolleys from PDRTA giving a historic tour of our downtown area. She said the folks coming in from out of town will not only see our commercial property that's available, but they will get an idea of how great Darlington is. She said at the end of the day everybody is invited back to the Chamber for a cocktail reception and a recap of the day. Ms. Brown said not to forget, but that same night at 7:00 PM is the first concert of the season on Liberty Lane.

MS. ROSE PRUITT – STORM WATER

Ms. Pruitt said she didn't grow up in Darlington, but her family is from here. She said fifteen years ago she rented a house on West Broad Street, which she purchased two years ago. She said she was excited to hear about the storm water ordinance that we passed but for the last two years she thought

that was going to help the drainage problem in her area too and that's not what's happening. Ms. Pruitt said at this point her property has been so severely damaged by storm water that should be running off somewhere else. She said a half inch of rain puts eleven inches of water at the end of her driveway. She can't get out because her floorboards of her car is eleven inches. Ms. Pruitt said one inch of rain brings water all the way to the front steps of her house. She said if there are thunderstorms and any heavier rains than that, the water goes underneath her house. She said it has done this plenty of times. Ms. Pruitt said she has had the entire heating and air system replaced this year. It has damaged the ductwork, it damaged the unit in the backyard. Ms. Pruitt said all of this is because of storm water runoff that she feels this is negligence on the city's part because they have not cleaned out the storm drains. She said when she lived there fifteen years ago, she never saw water up to the front of the stairs except maybe once or twice and now it happens almost every time it rains. Ms. Pruitt said she had a chance to look at a storm water study that was done (possibly the 2011 storm water study) and it mentioned the flooding on West Broad Street and what the problem was. She said the storm water study did not map the storm drains in her area between Player Street and Edwards Avenue and between W. Broad Street and Pearl Street. She said at this point it is costing her a lot of money to support the City of Darlington. She said the heating and air system that she had put back in was not the same kind of system that came out because she had to find something that was off the ground. She said she can't get her mail delivered when the water is high. She said the trash man has a system, but when the water is too high he doesn't' come that way either. Ms. Pruitt said she is surprised no one has been killed because the water out in the street can reach two feet or more. She said the City's response to this is they will come out and put up traffic cones, which is not particularly helpful. Ms. Pruitt said while she's excited that some storm water issues are getting fixed (she understands that maybe there's a new vac truck that may help with some of those issues), it's not helping her right now. She said at this point thy are damaging her property by taking her property without her permission and using it for a storm water bond. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul if he knows how many storm drains are in her block. Mr. Kinsaul said there's a drain in Ms. Pruitt's yard that goes across the street through woods to the railroad track. Mayor Hines asked when the last time the drains were cleaned. Mr. Kinsaul said they haven't been since he's been here. Ms. Pruitt said there are two storm drains; one at the end of her driveway, which supposedly runs to Tedder Street and the one across the street is supposed to drain to the railroad track and neither one drains at all. Mayor Hines asked

when the truck comes in and Mr. Garland said, "July". Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul if there was anything that he could do before July to clean those drains out. He said they could hire a truck to come clean them out. Mayor Hines asked how much the cost would be to clean the two drains. Mr. Kinsaul said a good guess would be anywhere from $25,000-$50,000 because of the distance they will have to clean. Councilwoman Reed asked, "How do we prevent this because Ms. Pruitt said this hasn't been like this fifteen years ago"? She asked do we need to clean the drains on a regular basis? Mr. Kinsaul said we need to develop a storm water maintenance plan that we have never had. Mr. Garland said we are moving to address this as quickly as we can and once we get the truck we will hire people. He said in order for us to accurately take care of the problem we have to develop a list and this would be at the top of this list. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus said, "So if I understand, didn't Ms. Lathan give us a storm water maintenance plan"? Mr. Garland said, "Yes ma'am, yes she did in 2011". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Mr. Kinsaul we haven't been working the plan or doing any maintenance"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "Councilwoman Baccus, I'm not responsible for storm water". Councilwoman Baccus and Reed wanted to know who is responsible then. Mr. Garland said he doesn't think it is good to get into any of that right now. He said just to give a little bit of past history, the previous council voted to fund the storm water ordinance and then rescinded the funding. He said we would be in a much better situation monetarily if the previous council hadn't voted to rescind the fee so that cost us approximately $300,000-$350,000 which could have paid for a vactor truck. Mr. Garland said storm water has been a line item in the water & sewer department budget, but it's never been a dedicated plan. He said the plan that Ms. Lathan and Stone Engineering put together was for outflows and MS4 monitoring from DHEC. Mr. Garland said the things we need to do involve hiring two people and a truck and having those folks work 40 hours a week until we get caught up which may take five to ten years. He said we have residential areas that need it and we have commercial areas that need it. Mr. Garland said we're not any different from any other town around here that has the same storm water issues. He said it's not just a decade of neglect, it's a half century of neglect. Councilman Milling said since we know we have the truck coming in July can we go ahead and have Ms. Carroll or whomever is responsible for this to start developing where we go when we get the truck so that we can have a plan in place and not develop a plan after we get the truck. Councilman Milling said we develop a plan and then we start using the truck to address it. Mr. Garland said one thing that we will do is go back and look over the last two to three years. He said

since the flood of 2015 all that water incursion has made our lines much more susceptible to collapse whether it's water, sewer or storm water. He said anything that we've had problems with over those years we will be the areas that we will look at first such as Cross Street, S. Main Street, W. Broad Street, E. Broad and Russell Street, areas on Chestnut Street. Councilwoman Baccus asked if they could get some clarity from Ms. Lathan about the plan she put in place and Mayor Hines said, "Yes, if you want to". Ms. Lathan said almost everything that has been discussed tonight has been fairly accurate. She said the five-year storm water master plan was developed in 2011. Ms. Lathan said what the plan did was identify the most critically flooded areas in the City which is Southwest and Southeast Darlington. She said in the Northeast and Northwest parts of Darlington they have more storm water infrastructure in other words there's existing curb and gutter and catch basins which allows the flow of water to travel faster to S. Darlington. The said the other thing is the terrain of Darlington, the natural flow of the topography, flows from north to South so when it rains all of the rainwater is naturally flowing from North Darlington to South Darlington. She said couple that with the fact that there's already more storm water infrastructure in North Darlington than South Darlington makes that storm water flow even faster. Ms. Lathan said in Southwest and Southeast the communities flood more often and more severe. Ms. Lathan said within the storm water master plan it looked at the issue of maintenance and it made recommendations to the City to implement a storm water maintenance plan. She said at one point and time they sat and were beginning to address that issue and at the time it was a resource issue with the City in terms of having enough crew to actually go out and begin to implement the plan. Ms. Lathan said it's something that the City has been looking at for many years and trying to address it to the extent the City considered using the labor forces from the local prison to come in. Ms. Lathan said they were actually set up to do that so the City has been looking at other alternatives but something happened and at that particular point and time it was not a wise decision to use that type of labor. She said as Howard has noted this is a common issue especially in rural South Carolina. Ms. Lathan told Ms. Pruitt that she truly empathizes with her, but the City of Darlington is ahead of the power curb compared to a lot of the other municipalities because they haven't taken the time to come up with a comprehensive plan. Ms. Lathan said moving forward we need to put together a comprehensive storm water maintenance plan as Mr. Kinsaul has noted. As Howard has noted it is going to take years, but the equipment that has been purchased is on its way and as Councilman Milling noted we really

need to go ahead and put that comprehensive storm water plan in place so that when the equipment arrives we have it. She said we have to make sure we employ licensed CDL drivers and that we have that plan in place and when the equipment arrives we will be in the position to start the maintenance. Ms. Lathan told Ms. Pruitt where her house is located has been clearly identified in the comprehensive plan as one of the priority areas that the City should address. Ms. Pruitt told Ms. Lathan that she noticed that and if she put that plan together she did a lot of work and she appreciates that, but it's been almost ten years and the plan has not been implemented. Ms. Pruitt said her house is rotting away. She said she is not at the coast nor is she in a flood zone except in front of her own house. Ms. Pruitt said while she appreciates that the City has not been able to fund this, the study but it didn't even include a plan for that block even though it mentioned that that was one of the biggest problems in the area. She said it didn't mention maintenance or any proposed lines, so she doesn't have great confidence that something is going to happen here. Ms. Pruitt said if it costs $25,000 to fix that then maybe you should look at doing it sooner rather than later because in the long run it may end up costing you a lot more. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland to tell Ms. Pruitt what the City can do to help her out. Mr. Garland said if the Council would vote to approve that expenditure we can do it. Councilwoman Reed said, "I have a problem and I'm not sure what it is because what Mr. Kinsaul said that this is not an area that he's responsible for, so in the City even with all of the plans and everything that we're talking about now that we're going to do, then who's going to administer it if it's not under him"? Councilwoman Reed said this is what she asked from jump street. She said we can do all of this, but how is it going to get administered? She said that is the biggest problem that we have because something should have been done within fifteen years. Councilwoman Reed told Ms. Pruitt she's in the area and there are three houses that is just like hers. She said the bottom of their houses have rotted out and one of the families have other health issues. Mayor Hines told Ms. Pruitt that she is sorry about her troubles. Mayor Hines said there was a lady, who is deceased now and she complained to the City for years about her house on Jessamine Street and because she couldn't afford to pay someone to fix her house water kept settling under her house and the moisture caused the house to deteriorate underneath it because the water had no place to go. They eventually had to tear the house down because the lady couldn't afford to keep fixing it up. Ms. Pruitt said just last month there was a broken water line in front of Belk Funeral Home and after they repaired it they flushed the lines in front of her mother's house at the corner of Edwards Avenue &

Broad Street and when she came home there was water back all the way up to her front steps. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if we have pumps where we can pump people's yard and he said, "Yes". Mayor Hines told Ms. Pruitt is this happens again she hopes the City will pump her yard to help out until they get the vac truck in July. Ms. Pruitt said that's a lot of water but the City had a vac truck a couple of years ago and it took all day to suck the water out of the street. Mr. Garland said that's the sweeper that has a limited attachment to it. Mayor Hines told Ms. Pruitt to go talk with Mr. Garland tomorrow. Councilman Milling said he would like for Mr. Garland to investigate it rather than them trying to do something tonight and take a look at it and figure out what they need to address it, how to address it, and what it's going to cost to address it then they will have something they can really act on if they've got that information.

MS. GWEN DIXON – BUSES

Ms. Dixon said she's a new resident to South Carolina as well as Darlington. She said she lives on Orange Street and one of her concerns is that a hole was dug on her side of the street sometime in November or December and it has not been filled in. She said she was concerned about it then and is extra concerned about it now because her grandson came to visit and fell in that hole. She said it's so dark on the street at night because there are no lights out there. Ms. Dixon said as they were coming into her house he fell into the ditch and knocked out several teeth. She said she spoke with the gentlemen the other day who were out there digging the dirt and she asked them if they were going to pack it and they said no, that was not their job. Ms. Dixon said she called and spoke with someone and was told her someone by the name of Frank was going to investigate it and something would be done about it. Ms. Dixon said that was last week, but she hasn't seen anybody yet. She said the hole is still there and it's very dangerous. Ms. Dixon said her other issue is the bus issue because she doesn't drive. She said when she was working she left at 2:00 but she couldn't get to Darlington until 7:30 every night because of the way the bus system runs. She said the earliest bus is 7 in the morning, 12 noon and then 5:30. Ms. Dixon said she spent a lot of money riding in cabs and she wanted to make it known. Ms. Dixon said she called the bus company and they said they have a plan that they are coming up with but they couldn't discuss it yet. Ms. Dixon said she is really concerned about the hole because it is deep and there's a pipe protruding out of it. She wanted to know if something could be done about it. Mr. Garland said SCDOT did that. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he could call them and see what they plan to do. Mr. Garland

said all the work between Liberty & Wells Street was done by SCDOT. Mr. Garland said he doesn't think the City had to do with that except replace a water line. Mr. Kinsaul said Frankie had to move one water meter and fill it in. Mr. Garland said he will make some inquiries from SCDOT.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE 2018-01 – DIGITAL SIGN ORDINANCE

Mayor Hines opened the floor for a Public Hearing on the Digital Sign Ordinance. No one was present to speak, so she closed the public hearing.

B) SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2018-01 DIGITAL SIGN ORDINANCE

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-01 – Digital Sign Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus. Councilman Milling said sometimes when ordinances have been done and an ordinance is set and then you've got certain signs that are in noncompliance as to whether or not the noncompliance signs will have to be brought into compliance within five years or some time frame so that everything is coordinated rather than just having some people complying with the sign ordinance and others being grandfathered in forever and not having to make any compliance. He said he would like for Council to take a look at a time frame in which everybody falls under the same digital sign ordinance. **All approved the motion**.

C) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-05 – ANNEXATION (164-05-02-020) NORTH MAIN STREET BESIDE DARLINGTON AMUSEMENT COMPANY

Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Reed, Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-05 – annexation (164-05-02-020) North Main Street beside Darlington Amusement Company for the Dollar General Store, which unanimously carried.

E) PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSION – OAK/NORTH STREETS – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock told Council she included in their packets as requested at the last meeting, addresses of the specific properties on North Street and Oak Street that would be involved in the expansion. She said she also included a map of the current district and what the addition would be and maps of the other historic districts for their information. Mrs. Rock said the Historic

Landmark Commission has been researching using the State's survey of the City of the suggested expansion to our historic districts. Councilman Milling said, "There may be three to six houses or so that would have been considered historic houses that have actually moved to Florence or other areas. If a house is in a historic district and the house gets moved to another community, if somebody bought that piece of property, it's no longer subject to historic requirements, is it"? "You don't have to go back and replicate"? Mrs. Rock said you're still officially in the district so you'll still have to get your plans approved if it was residential property by the Historic Landmark Commission, but you wouldn't have to replicate anything that was previously there. Councilman Milling asked, "If a house is gone and you bought a lot with nothing on it you like Frank Lloyd Wright, but your neighbors don't are we saying now that the person who likes the modernistic approach…Mrs. Rock cut in and said if that historic district area is fitting with the Frank Lloyd Wright era architecture then it would be appropriate, but if it was Victorian it probably wouldn't. Councilman Milling said, So that person because of this ordinance just couldn't….Mrs. Rock cut in and said it's not because of this ordinance, this is based on the U.S. Department of Interior rules for Historic Districts. Councilman Milling said he's just wondering how this gets communicated because this could be tough on somebody. Mrs. Rock said the realtors are supposed to disclose these things if they know it, but they have no way to make them. She said some realtors don't want to take historic properties because they think it's too complicated. Councilman Milling said he's wondering if we could check with the Clerk of Court's office about doing a filing so that the historic district stuff got put on record so that any title examiner that was examining title to a piece of property would end up finding the ordinance in the chain of title rather than making reference to it. Mrs. Rock said she doesn't know the rules about titling to put it in there. Mr. Garland said sometimes there are covenants that are put in as it relates to a particular property, the historic nature of the property or if there is a binding agreement from a tax credit deal from the Department of Interior or The S.C. Department of Archives and History so sometimes the covenants carry over from one property owner to another. Mayor Hines said she agrees with Councilman Milling, but what happens if it doesn't carry over. Mr. Garland said we haven't looked at our Historic Preservation Ordinance since 2007 or 2008, but when we adopted the ordinance it was based on the City of Charleston which was considered a model for most of the country. Mr. Garland told Council they can have a work session and look at our Historic Preservation Ordinances as they relate to residential and commercial structures. Mayor Hines told Mr. Garland we

need to take a look at it. Mrs. Rock asked Council if they would like them to go ahead and prepare an ordinance and prepare the certified letters to send to the property owners. Mayor Hines told her like Councilman Milling said, they need to check on a few more things first.

NEW BUSINESS

A) APPROVAL BID FOR PAINTING PINE STREET WATER TANK – MR. KINSAUL

Mr. Kinsaul said he received a low bid from Utility Service Company for $197,000. Mr. Kinsaul said this is the same company that painted the tank on North Main Street. He said they will take the money from his capital reserve fund. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Kinsaul how often does he have to paint the tanks and Mr. Kinsaul said every 15-20 years. Mr. Kinsaul said the paint vendor/salesman is an inspector and he comes by every couple of days and inspects the tank to make sure they are putting the proper thickness of paint on the tanks and its done to his specifications. **Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman Milling to approve the low bid of $197,000 from Utility Service Company to paint the water tank at Pine Street, which unanimously carried.**

B) RESOLUTION APPROVAL: SALE OF PROPERTY TO SCDOT (.19 ACRES) 164-14-02-002 FOR $15,000

Mayor Hines said this is on North Main Street where they want to widen the bridge. Mr. Garland said this is to the left of Evangeline Street.
Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the sale of property (164-14-02-002 - .19 Acres) for $15,000. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

C) RESOLUTION APPROVAL SALE OF PROPERTY TO SCDOT (.318 ACRES) 164-10-01-002 FOR $12,500

Mayor Hines said this is the Psillos Garden. Mr. Garland said we will move the monuments that are on that site. **Councilwoman Reed made a motion to approve the sale of property to SCDOT in the amount of $12,500. Councilman Milling seconded the motion. All approved the motion**.

D) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-07 ZONING DESIGNATION (GENERAL COMMERCIAL) FOR 164-10-02-002) NORTH MAIN STREET BESIDE DARLINGTON MUSIC COMPANY

Mayor Hines said this is the property that we did the annexation on. **Councilwoman Reed made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-07 Zoning Designation (General Commercial) for 164-10-02-002, North Main Street beside Darlington Amusement Company. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

E) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-08 – ZONING CHANGE FOR 700 ORANGE STREET FROM RG TO BI

Mayor Hines said this is the property where Nytronics was. Mr. Garland gave background history on the property. He said when Nytronics took over the property in the 60's & 70's and polluted the ground. Mr. Garland said a company in India which owns the environmental liability from the Nytronics Company and since 2005 they have been working with SCDHEC to clean up the property. He said in 2008 they took the 4-story building down and in the last seven or eight years they brought in a machine to wash the soil on site. He said they did some additional soil testing and they are still worried that the site is still contaminated. Mr. Garland said he, the Mayor and Councilwoman Reed met with attorneys for the company in late January and they are going to put thirty above ground wells on the site and three underground to clean the area. Mr. Garland said one day they would like to use that site for something, but DHEC is demanding that it never be used for anything residential. He said for the next five to seven years there will be a fence around the area at the end of Orange Street and there's going to be thirty pumps and they will be checking that site to make sure it's clean. Mr. Garland said hopefully one day in the future they can put something there that will bring jobs for Darlington in the future. **Councilman Milling made a motion to approve First Reading of Ordinance 2018-08 which provides for a zoning change for 700 Orange Street from RG to Business Industrial (BI). Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Hines said today they laid to rest Mr. Earl B. Wilson who worked for the City of Darlington for 62 years.

Elaine Reed asked if we have a commercial appearance code that applies to our storefront? Mrs. Rock said in 2012 Council passed a commercial appearance code to help improve the look of the commercial districts. Councilwoman Reed asked if it was primarily in the downtown area and

Mrs. Rock said it's any commercial property no matter where it is. Councilwoman Reed said as she was looking at her paperwork it looked as if someone was trying to encourage a certain business to abide by the rules. Mrs. Rock said the Planning Commission members were asking about a specific property and what remedies were available through the code and she suggested that they review the ordinance and see if there's any expansion they thought was necessary or if they felt that the ordinance covered everything. Mrs. Rock said they are still reviewing it.

Mayor Hines said former Council member Earl Johnson's son, Earl Jr. passed away.

REMINDERS

Tuesday April 17, 2018 at 6:00 PM – Budget Work Session
Tuesday May 1, 2018 at 6:30 PM – Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

_____
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
MAY 1, 2018

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: Elaine Reed, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Mr. Lee Andrews, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Curtis Boyd, and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman John Milling did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, to approve the Minutes of April 3, 2018 Council meeting, which unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner, to approve the meeting agenda, which unanimously carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said she is happy to report that they had an exceptional turnout for "Clean Up Darlington Day". She said they had more than seventy-four people volunteering their time this Saturday morning for the cleanup. She

thanked all those that came out to help including several council members, the Darlington Garden Club, Fitness World Gyms, Darlington County Courthouse, Southeastern Lawn Care, McRavin's Lawn Service, Genesis Healthcare, Out of This World Screen Printing, Palmetto Auto Auction, Mrs. Dyan Cohen, Walmart for donating refreshments, and the Darlington Police Department and Chief Washington for painting the parking lot stripes behind Jewel's and everyone else that helped. Mrs. Rock said the Great American Cleanup for Darlington County will be held May 19th. She said the DDRA's Annual Golf Tournament was held on April 18, 2018 and it was the best with three presenting sponsors: Carolina Bank, Darlington Raceway and Fitness World Gyms. She said The Annual Taste of Darlington was another great success this month. Mrs. Rock said coming up on May 10th the DDRA is kicking off their 2018 "Bringing Downtown Alive" free concert series at Liberty Lane & Pearl Street. She said Johnny Glenn & the Chasers will perform on May 10th with the Darlington Lions Club staffing the event. She said Pepsi of Florence and Wilson Senior Care has already committed to assisting with the project as well. The Bout Time Band of Darlington will perform on June 14th; Dustin James and Hank Edwards will perform on July 12th; they will hold a community karaoke party with S&T Entertainment on August 9th and for the final event in the series on Friday August 31st during race week. She said anyone interested in helping with the concerts should contact her office. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA invites businesses to network and learn about their programs and give feedback on future projects at their monthly members breakfast. Their monthly breakfast for members is 8:00 AM Wednesday May 23, 2018 at Takis Diner. Breakfast will be provided for member businesses at no charge and a small donation of $5.00 towards the meal for nonmember businesses. Those meetings will continue through October.

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

Ms. Hobbs said Bowties & Pearls was held on Saturday, April 21, 2018 in the backyard of South of Pearl. She said they plan on making this event an Annual Great Chamber of Darlington event. Ms. Hobbs said The Chamber of Commerce partnered with the Florence Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday April 25, 2018 for the Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon the SiMT Building at Florence-Darlington Technical College. Ms. Hobbs said on Thursday May 10th at the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce they are having "Open House Darlington". Ms. Hobbs said this initiative is the brain child of Ms. Rhonda Brown who has worked tirelessly

to make this event a success. She said beginning at 1:00 PM they hope to have as many commercial buildings that are open and available for tour. She said to date they have 16 buildings open and available for people to look at. Ms. Hobbs said they will have the historical tour and end at the Chamber with a cocktail type reception and during the reception, Ms. Toyinda Smith will be at the Chamber to do a book signing of her new book – "The Handbook to Unleashing Your Potential". She said at 7:00 they will kickoff the season on Liberty Lane. Ms. Hobbs said they have marketed this event up and down the Eastern Seaboard with press releases. A Ribbon Cutting will be held Wednesday May 16th, 11:30 AM at Papa John's located at 118 Express Lane. Ms. Hobbs said Papa John's contacted her today and wanted to know if we had the name of a homeless shelter, which we do not in Darlington. She said if anybody knows of anyone or a place where they could send pizzas to because they often have pizzas that people don't pick up or the have mis made pizzas and they don't want to throw them away. She said if they have some place they could take the pizzas, they wouldn't have to throw them away. Councilman Milling suggested maybe the women's shelter, which Ms. Hobbs said was a great idea. Ms. Hobbs said on Thursday May 17, 2018 at noon for Ladies Day they will be hosting Ms. Toyinda Smith who will have her new book there and Ms. Sarah Ketter who is a Mary Kay representative. Ms. Ketter will be doing mini-makeovers and she'll be giving away free samples. Ms. Hobbs said they are in the planning stages of Freedom Fest which will be held on June 30th. She said the stage is ordered, the band is booked, the rides are ordered, the vendors are on the list and the new fireworks company has it on their calendar. Ms. Hobbs said they have a lot of events coming up with the Chamber, so everybody needs to keep looking at their Facebook page. Mayor Hines presented Ms. Hobbs with a check for $15,000 to help with Freedom Fest.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK

Mr. Linwood Epps – Mr. Epps said it's four months before Mr. Garland's contract comes up in September. He said he wanted to encourage Council to his renew Mr. Garland's contract because he thinks he's been doing a good job. Mr. Epps asked Council to give Mr. Garland a two-year contract, not a 12-month contract.

Mr. Lee Andrews – Mr. Andrews said they have gotten so much bad publicity when they talked about combining everything. He said it's been such a good experience with the kids out there. He said they have close to 500 kids in the program right now. Mr. Andrews said we have purchased

come property near Virgil Wells Stadium and they are excited about that. He said they are excited about the swimming pool opening soon. Mr. Andrews said they are entering into a contract with Poolwerx to do the upkeep of the pool and get it ready for them this year. Mr. Andrews said they are excited that the recreation department is heading in the right direction.

Ms. Gwen Dixon – said she along with other riders is asking for better bus service and weekend service. She said they appreciate the service and as many of them ride it as possible, but they would like a little more service. She said Florence seems to have all the service, but from her understanding, nobody has service on the weekend. Councilman Milling asked Ms. Dixon if she had some specifics as to what needs to be done to with the bus service to make it better because she used the term "better bus service". Ms. Dixon said the time would be great. She said the first bus (commuter) leaves at 7:00 in the morning and then they don't have another one until 12 noon and then 5:30 in the evening, so there's a big gap. She said the DART bus runs every hour so that's convenient. Councilman Milling asked Ms. Dixon to help them out by getting the group that rides the bus to write these things down and get it to them. He said this time of year the people from the bus service always show up asking for some contribution and it would be a good time to talk with them about what might be her needs. Ms. Dixon said there are some folks that are not seniors that need the bus earlier in the morning to get to work (5:30 AM-6:00 AM). Councilman Milling said we can't control everything they do, but we can bring them suggestions and try to get the best we can for our money.

Calvin Byrd – said he backs up everything Ms. Dixon said. He said he lives at 600 Washington Street, said they need a bus from 9:00 AM – 12 noon on Saturday morning so the can do a little shopping.

Vanessa Dunham – said she would appreciate it if we could get a bus on Saturday. She said her medicine runs out on Saturday and a lot of time she doesn't have transportation to get to the drug store to get her medicine.

Lula Brown – said she's all for the Saturday bus. She said the DART bus is her car and she has now learned how to commute from Darlington to Florence. She said she is all for a Saturday bus route.

Ms. Retha Sparks – said she rides PDRTA bus almost everyday and we need a bus on Saturday. She said she also commute to Florence once a week and she is really enjoying the bus service.

Mrs. Catherine Douglas – said she rides the bus on Saturday sometimes too even though she has a car. She said sometimes her car breaks down and she'll have to walk. Mrs. Douglas said it would be great for us to have bus service on Saturday and prays it goes through because we really need it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Hines opened the Public Hearing up at 6:58 PM for anyone wishing to speak concerning Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-07 Zoning Designation (General Commercial 164-10-02-002) North Main Street beside Darlington Amusement. Mr. Gregg Googer with Coastal Development Partners and they are the company that has the site under contract. He said they are looking to develop the parcel as commercial and they are nearing the end of their due diligence. Mr. Googer said they already have an active lease from Dollar General and if they can have approval of this request tonight, they will come. He said Dollar General will bring about 6-10 full-time jobs as well as tax base and approximately $1 million-dollar investment in the community. Mr. Googer said they were there earlier tonight and met with some of the neighbors and they also had some other neighbors that had some questions and he thinks he has addressed all of their concerns. He said they talked about fencing, lighting, security system to make sure everything is secure. There was no public comment and the public hearing ended at 7:00 PM. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-07 – Zoning Designation (General Commercial) for 164-10-02-002 North Main Street beside Darlington Amusement. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

Mayor Hines opened Public Hearing at 7:01 PM for Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-08 – zoning Change for 700 Orange Street from RG (General Residential) to BI (Basic Industrial). There was no comment from Council or the public and the hearing was closed. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-08 Zoning change for 700 Orange Street from General Residential (RG) to Basic Industrial (BI). Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

NEW BUSINESS

A) FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2018-09 (2018-2019 BUDGET) APPROVAL

Councilman Milling made a motion for First Reading on Ordinance 2018-09 (2018-2019 Budget). Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce asked, "What budget approval are we doing, we just now in the budget? Mr. Garland said this is just to get the first reading out of the way and we won't do the second reading until everybody has had a chance to look at every department. Councilman Milling said we are just doing first reading so we'll be sure that we get two readings in. **All approved the motion.**

B) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-10 BUSINESS LICENSE COLLECTION

Mayor Hines said this is what we do every year. Mr. Garland said there are no changes in the fees, we just have to adopt this every year. **Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, First Reading on Ordinance 2018-10 Business License Collection, which unanimously carried.**

C) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-11 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTICE

Mayor Hines said this is in case we need money during the year before we get our tax money. Mr. Garland said Mayor and Council adopted this the last two years, we haven't had to use it, but it's there in case we need it. **Councilwoman Reed made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-11 Tax Anticipation Notice. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion**.

D) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-12 TAX LEVY

Mayor Hines said the millage still 125 mils. Mr. Garland said we need to table this because a Councilmember told him at the City-County supper last night that they would like to look at this at a budget work session. **Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus to table First Reading on Ordinance 2018-12 Tax Levy. All approved the motion.**

E) MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT – CHIEF KELVIN WASHINGTON

Chief Washington told Council they will find a copy of the Mutual Aid Agreement as well as a resolution which is a part of the Mutual Aid Agreement. He said in years past municipalities and counties were able to do mutual aid agreement and there was no need at that time for city governments to get involved in it. Chief Washington said in 2016 the General Assembly added some changes to that statue and they have required city governments to vote on all mutual agreements pertaining to the police departments within the State of South Carolina. He said because the Sheriff is an elected official, has the authorization and the authority to enter into any mutual aid agreement which he sees fit, but police departments have to get approval from the Mayor and members of City Council prior to entering into those mutual aid agreements. Chief Washington said he would like to recommend to Council that we do a resolution and allow in that resolution the ability for us to enter into those mutual aid agreements, but also to give the City Manager the ability to approve the mutual aid agreements that the police department enters into. Otherwise, every single mutual aid agreement that they do they will have to bring back before Council. Chief Washington said he met with the Municipal Association and discussed it and this is pretty much the common practice across the State for the City Manager or Administrator to have that authorization, but he can only have it if Council gives it to him. He said his plans are to give the mutual aid agreements to all the law enforcement agencies within Darlington County and also all of the law enforcement agencies that border around the edges of Darlington as well. He said once they have obtained all of those mutual aid agreements he will file them, (a copy in his office and Mr. Garland will have a copy) and Council will be able to review those copies at any time. Chief Washington said he and Mr. Etheridge has spent a considerable amount of time on both of those initiatives and would like to thank Mr. Etheridge for his work in assisting him with this endeavor. Chief Washington said the mutual aid agreement by the police department and the sheriff's office is pretty much already done, he just needs to get approval of Council to move forward with it. He said as for the resolution, he is not asking for a vote tonight, it's for information purposes only. He suggested to Council that they take some time to look at it and then at the next council meeting they can vote on it if they are ready. Councilwoman Reed asked if this was what they normally do. Chief Washington said they changed the law two years ago and for police departments they have to get the authority of city governments in order to enter into those agreements. Councilwoman Bruce said, "With this new amendment, anytime there's an agreement you won't have to come

back before Council, it automatically gives you the right to do it. Chief Washington said it will give the authority to sign on behalf of City Council. Chief Washington said we will have to have the resolution anyway before we can enter into the mutual aid agreements. He said that is why Mr. Garland has not signed it as of yet. Chief Washington said he has signed it and Sheriff Chavis has not signed, but it's still not legal because Mr. Garland has not signed it. Councilwoman Reed said she doesn't see any reason why we would delay this. Mr. Garland said when he was assistant manager, Police Chief Jay Cox would sign agreements with jurisdictions that didn't make any sense to him such as N. Myrtle Beach, Georgetown. He said he can see signing agreements with Chesterfield, Marlboro, Florence. He said he agrees with everything that Chief Washington is saying and he doesn't like the idea of not having some type of supervision and he wanted Council to understand what they were trying to do. He said they are not trying to hide anything from them, but he wasn't going to sign the agreement until Council approves it. Mayor Hines asked if the agreement could be approved tonight. Councilman Milling wanted to know if the mutual aid agreement could be terminated at any time and Chief said, 'yes, by either party". Chief Washington said it's good for us to have the mutual aid agreements with the local agencies within our region because we have to work so closely with them. He said there are also times that we will be brining in narcotics agents from jurisdictions that are nowhere near here and they may want to use our narcotics folks to things. Chief Washington said he explained to Mr. Garland that there will some agencies that we will partner with that are not here. Councilman Milling asked if this result in significant changes in the cost that you budget involved with doing this? Chief Washington said, "No Sir". He said if you look at the mutual aid agreement he and Sheriff Chavis have agreed to, each one of them will be responsible for their own personnel and any cost associated with the personnel. Councilwoman Reed said they ought to go ahead and act on this. Councilman Milling asked if we have an ordinance to do this or just the resolution is appropriate. Chief Washington said this is something he and City Attorney Etheridge has been wrestling with. He said he was able to do the resolution part, but the ordinance part will be something City Attorney Etheridge will have to get with Council about. City Attorney Etheridge said they were not exactly sure; they were just going to bring this so they could peruse it. Mr. Etheridge told Council if they are that comfortable with going ahead with it, he can get that information in the next day or two. Chief Washington said if we have to put it off until next month, it's ok. He said we didn't have one, so another 30 days isn't going to hurt. City Attorney Etheridge said he thinks another 30

days will work to make sure we have everything in order. Mayor Hines said we will wait until after Council has a chance to read over it and they will put it on the agenda for next month.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Hines said cleanup day on Saturday was great. She said the Purple Fish located at 110 W. Hampton Street is open Monday & Wednesday from 7:30 – 12:30 and Friday from 6:30 – 9:30 with live music.

Councilman Milling (passed out pictures) said he was in Georgetown last week for a softball game at a complex which is very nice with a center building with four fields around it. He said once we start working on our recreation complex, it would be good to have a vision of what's out there and what's possible as we try to upgrade our facilities and make them suitable for having tournament ball games. He said we can contact industry in the area and see if we can get some sponsorship from them as well.

City Attorney Kevin Etheridge said they have another court date of May 16, 2018 for the Tyner Warehouse situation and Judge Stucks will make a decision on it at that time. Mr. Etheridge said the Siskron Street and Old Florence Highway property they have had problems with titles and survey, but they are getting that done and hopefully they will have a closing on that this week. Mr. Etheridge said Council asked about the Habitability Court in Florence and he spoke with them and should have some information for them by next Council meeting.

Mayor Hines said Ms. Rhonda Brown and the Garden Club are doing a marvelous job beautifying areas in Darlington.

REMINDERS

Thursday May 3, 2018 at 6:00 PM – Budget work Session
Tuesday May 15, 2018 at 6:00 PM – Budget Work Session
Tuesday June 5, 2018 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 7:24 PM.

_____

Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
BUDGET WORK SESSION
THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018 AT 6:00 PM

The City of Darlington held a budget work session in the Old Council Chambers on Thursday May 3, 2018 at 6:00 PM. Present at the meeting: Mayor Gloria C. Hines, City Manager Howard Garland; Council Members: Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Bruce, John Segars, Elaine Reed, John Milling, Sheila Baccus and Bryant Gardner. Others in attendance included: W&S Superintendent Mr. Kinsaul, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Ms. Jannie Lathan.

Mayor Hines called the meeting to order at 6:19 PM.

Mr. Garland said the State of South Carolina allows us to go back three years for millage increases if Council wants to go that. He said whenever he gets the value of one mil in the City of Darlington he will be able to tell them how much they can raise the mils if they want to do that and whether they want to do it for just one year or look back over the last two years. He said the CPI is 2.13%. Mr. Garland said what they are waiting for from the State of South Carolina is to look at the population. He said if there is an increase in the population we can raise the millage rate even more, if there is a decrease, it's just 0%. Mr. Garland said those numbers won't come out until May 24th. He told Council he won't have anything final for them until then. Mr. Garland told Council he is going to give them information about State Law allowing us to raise millage rates and how it is done and he will also give them a printout of millage caps from 2008-2018. Mr. Garland said there's been so many questions about the storm water and the water and sewer. He said some of the questions he can't really answer on the storm water because we just signed on the bond yesterday. He said the new bond will take effect within the next week. Sterling National Bank will wire the funds sometime early next week. Mr. Garland said we currently have $1.131 in our storm water account and that money will stay there except for interest we have to pay BB&T (we owe approx. $38,000) which is interest for the first year of the bond plus $13,000 early prepayment penalty. He said there's an additional $80,000 that we have to pay the Bond Attorney and to First Tryon for working out the particulars of this particular finance. Sterling Finance will give us an additional $1.2M.

The building has been taken down at 909 Pearl Street. Councilman Gardner asked Mr. Garland if they saved those doors and Mr. Garland said they don't fit. He said he thinks we'll have to get something that's custom. Mr. Garland said Councilman Gardner is talking about having some doors put it in at the street department so Kendrick or whomever is the mechanic is can work in a bay that's cool or hot depending on the time of year.

WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Kinsaul went over department 912. There weren't many line item amounts that changed from the previous year. Mr. Kinsaul said salaries include a 1 1/2 % increase. Mr. Kinsaul said line item 212 was increased because Davis & Brown asked for an increase because they are having to pay their operators more money to maintain them. He said there's a shortage of operators and everybody is fighting for them. Mr. Kinsaul said line item 272-Special Contracts is where DHEC does water sampling. He said the agreement was made by all the water systems that they would pay and rather than have any non-biased entity, DHEC will have all the samples done and analyze it. Mr. Kinsaul went over department 914C which is the sewer collections – (Sewer Pipes & Pump Stations). Mr. Kinsaul said salaries include a 1 1/2 % increase and also $39,000 for a potential vac truck driver. Mr. Garland said this is the person that will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the vactor truck. He said one of those positions will come out of water & sewer and one will come out of the street and sanitation department. Mr. Kinsaul said line item 212-Contract O&M was increased a little. He said line item 234-CMOM is required by DHEC. He said this has anything to do with a manhole or repairing anything with the sewer to keep it from overflowing or spilling. Mr. Kinsaul said if the Joe Louis pump station goes down, the By-Pass goes down; everything from Bay Island Seafood to B&B Restaurant will probably shut down for two or three days. Mr. Kinsaul said the lift station was patched two or three months ago. Mr. Garland told Mr. Kinsaul to explain how many times he's fixed it. Mr. Kinsaul said it's literally falling apart. They've put new controls panels; the pumps and pipes are rusting out. He said the estimated to fix that lift station is $240,000. Mr. Kinsaul said RIA has another round of grants coming up in September, but we have the RIA grant tied up on the ditch but they have one in the economic side and he would like to apply for it under economic and use the jobs that were created in the By-Pass area. Mr. Kinsaul said it's a long-shot, but it's worth a try. Mr. Kinsaul said if not, we will have to take part out of the budget and the rest out of capital reserves. Mr. Kinsaul said this is the most crucial item that we have right now. Mr. Garland said we

are working on replacing the reserve that we're going to lose for painting the water & sewer tanks and now the Joe Louis repairs. Mr. Garland said we have a company that we rent the N. Main Street well for cellular service. He said Verizon own the rights to it and he's had a company approach him about buying out that lease with an upfront cash payment anywhere between $450,000-$500,000. Mr. Garland said he has held off on purpose until he had the meeting with Council tonight. He said if they do this they can take this money and put it back in their reserve. He said if we lose that money, that's $38,000 a year plus whatever is going to accrue in future years that we'll lose each year as revenue. Mr. Garland said he'd rather replenish our fund and do something right now. He said with technology keeps changing and those tower leases are no longer needed, then somebody else is taking all the risks, we'll lose that revenue stream anyway. He said he thinks it's a good thing to do and if we can't work out a deal with the company we're currently negotiating with, we're going to go to the company that painted our water tanks and instead of paying the bill we will let them keep all the proceeds from the lease payments in exchange for painting both of the tanks. Mr. Kinsaul said Pine Street well is down right now and we're looking at approximately $25,000-$50,000 to repair it. Councilwoman Bruce said, "So the cost to paint the two water tanks was $220,000"? Mr. Kinsaul said the first tank was $169,000 and the second tank was close to $200,000. Mayor Hines told Council to wait until Mr. Kinsaul finishes his budget presentation to ask questions. Councilman Milling asked how many years are left on the lease? Mr. Garland said it is open-ended. Councilman Gardner said, "Right now are we not going to assess that one issue". Councilman Gardner said his question is, they want an up-front payment of $400,000-$500,000 and have the lease for perpetuity. Councilman Gardner said every 10 years we would get that assuming….Mr. Kinsaul interjected and said if they don't go satellite or some other method of cell. Mr. Kinsaul said Mr. Garland put $106,073 in the storm water line item. Mr. Garland said the reason why that's such an odd number is we use storm water to balance out the water & sewer fund. He said if they have a surplus or a shortfall you will find it in storm water. Mr. Garland said this line item use to be around $100,000 before we enacted the storm water fee. He said since the storm water fee is being used for the Southwest Darlington storm water project, we had to increase this amount to handle other storm water needs. He said there's no payment due on the vactor truck until July, 2019 so that means there's no payment due for this budget year. He said most of the money in this line item can be used for planning with the engineer (they plan on using Ervin Engineering). Mr. Kinsaul said line item 914c-278 was increased to

$57,499. He said Councilwoman Reed can vouch for this because they have worked in her front yard for a while. Mr. Kinsaul said they have almost spent that much in paving this year not counting the cost for digging and other work. He said they will probably reach $100,000 in sewer line repairs this year. Mr. Kinsaul said you don't know what it's going to cost from year to year, but you've got to have something when it falls in. He said depending on how extensive it gets, (like Tallulah & Syracuse Streets) where you have to go an entire block, it's expensive. He said fortunately it's been where our guys have been able to do the work and save the city thousands of dollars by renting a piece of equipment and doing the work themselves. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Kinsaul to explain what the beds are for and how they are used (914-277T). Mr. Kinsaul said we have seven beds and the sewer water goes into the beds, drains down in it, goes down about 15 feet – 16 feet deep in the ground and then there's a set of pipes that collect it. By the time it filters through the dirt and work its way, it biodegrades. He said it goes out and then it will go through a disinfecting chamber where its treated with chlorine to make sure there's nothing left in it. Mr. Kinsaul said the chlorine is removed out of it and then it's discharged to the creek. He said the beds are actually what does the treatment over years the sand works it way out through the drains and we'll have to replace some sand in at least one of the beds. Mr. Garland said the plant was built in 1982 and the useful life is usually 40-50 years if you're fortunate and that will be in year 2022. Mr. Kinsaul said it runs efficient and real reasonable as long as DHEC don't come up with some kind of strange parameter that this plant can't handle. Mr. Garland said anybody that would like a tour let him know and he will take them out there, Councilwoman Reed asked what is Contract O&M for? Mr. Kinsaul said this is where Davis & Brown furnishes licensed operators for the water & wastewater. He said we pay them out of all three budgets. Mr. Garland said this question comes up a lot and asked Mr. Kinsaul to address why we don't have those qualifications or licenses. Mr. Kinsaul said the average age of a licensed operator in South Carolina is 59 years old. He said nobody is getting into this field. Mr. Kinsaul said Florence just upped their starting pay to $24 per hour and they have a year to get their certification, if not, they are terminated. Mr. Kinsaul said the only way to get an operator is to buy one. Councilwoman Reed asked again about what the Davis & Brown operators do? Mr. Kinsaul said they are actually treating the water at the well and they run all the tests at the waste treatment plant. They run the filter, backwash it and they have all kinds of logs they have to do for DHEC. Councilman Segars asked if we have a problem at night or after hours are the workers from Davis & Brown

on call. Mr. Kinsaul said, "Yes, they are on call and if there's a problem or a well goes down, it's on remote and the workers will get an alert on their phone. Mayor Hines asked what type license does that require? Mr. Kinsaul said the wells require a "C" Water and the Wastewater requires a "B" Biological Waste Treatment. Mayor Hines said once upon a time we had Richard Hodges at the treatment plant and he was testing wanted to know the difference between what he was doing then and what Davis & Brown is doing now. Mr. Kinsaul said they are doing the same thing, but lab certification has gotten so critical and the cost of maintaining because DHEC had to come in and certify and recertify. He said if you do your own testing you've always got that question, "did they pencil it; did they have a legitimate test; Was the answer really correct"? Mr. Kinsaul said by using a third party to test it, the City of Darlington don't have anything in it. He said DHEC is not going to question it because we did not run the numbers. Councilman Segars said before Mr. Kinsaul and Davis & Brown came on board we were constantly getting reprimanded from DHEC. Mr. Kinsaul said Davis & Brown has been operating over eight years and we have not failed an inspection. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus asked how many Davis & Brown employees we have. Mr. Kinsaul said there's always two employees that work seven days a week, 365 days a year. Councilman Gardner asked what the cost difference would be to hire operators ourselves. Mr. Kinsaul said probably $40,000-$50,000 a year, plus you have to furnish a vehicle and provide benefits. He said you would need two, probably three people because no one person will work 365 days a year. Councilman Segars asked Mr. Kinsaul to explain more about Joe Louis Blvd. lift station. Mr. Kinsaul said the lift station is critical, but the concern is if Sonic and Zaxby's come to the By-Pass area. He said everything on the By-Pass goes to Joe Louis lift station. Ms. Jannie Lathan asked how old the lift station is and Mr. Kinsaul said probably about 30 years old. Ms. Lathan said if we can't justify the Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) grant based on the economic development because that pump station supports the LMI area, we could probably qualify for a CDBG. Mr. Kinsaul said if we get enough into it because a lot of it crosses Main Street up to about Bay Island. Ms. Lathan said we can qualify and that's just another option. Mr. Garland said Ms. Lathan knows the CDBG regulations better than he does. He said maybe we can put in for both. Ms. Lathan said we can because with RIA you're estimating the cost which will be about $250,000, but you'll have a brand new fully compliant pump. She said with RIA we can get up to $500,000 so there might be some other infrastructure we may be able to use the grant for. Mr. Kinsaul said you might be able to increase the size of the pumps at the

old treatment plant. Ms. Lathan said the good thing is the City's match is only 10%. Mr. Garland told Council if they give them guidance they will go ahead and do the work for the CDBG and get it in. Mayor Hines said for one thing, you want to do what you need to now because if those businesses come and we're not prepared for it, it will be disastrous. Mr. Kinsaul said it would be devastating and we wouldn't want anything like that on T.V. Mr. Kinsaul said this is our growth area and we've got to do what we can. Councilman Gardner asked when will we have to replace the pump station at Grove Hill and Mr. Kinsaul said it needs work now. Councilman Milling wanted to know how much it would cost to put together packages that need to go to see if we can get the CDBG. Ms. Lathan said her fee is $3,000 to put the application together; Coupled with that we will need a preliminary engineering report and she's seen prices range anywhere from $7,000 to as much as $10,000. Mr. Garland told Council if they want that he will put it on the June agenda so they can go ahead and approve for them to put the application in. Councilwoman Baccus asked if we could apply for the two different grants. Ms. Lathan said with the approval she will work with the City Manager and Mr. Kinsaul and figure out which is the optimum application to submit. Ms. Lathan said they will look at all the options and then you all can make a decision in terms of what's the optimum type of application to submit and which is the best agency to submit based on timing. She said for RIA, like Mr. Kinsaul said, in the Fall, you're looking at an Economic Development, but you've got to partner with a business and that business has to sign a contract with RIA to say, "guarantee for the next five years I'm going to bring in 50 new jobs over that period of time". She said you actually have to partner with the industry who's going to commit to certain things in terms of economic growth and development. She said there are other types of ways we can get that in and not have to have that commitment. Councilman Gardner asked if we can apply for both of the grants and Ms. Lathan said there's a possibility that we can apply for both grants. Councilman Milling said he thinks we need to look at both options and see if we can get two grants. Mayor Hines asked how many employees went to training last year. Mr. Kinsaul said three went last year, but they usually rotate. Council started to discuss among themselves the best option for the cell tower; whether to keep collecting the money they are sending us or sell to the company that has made an offer to us. Mayor Hines told Council they need to finish with the budget line items before they branch off on something else. Councilman Gardner said on page 59 (line item 255 – storm water), he said he thought when they created the storm water fee they did that to get this line item out of the budget. Mr. Garland said he thought

he went over this earlier. Mr. Garland said the fund is being used to pay for one project now and we have storm water needs over the rest of the town and he doesn't know of any other way to do it, unless they want to increase the storm water fee to generate more income. Councilman Gardner said he thought we were getting it out of this fund and it would have its own budget. Mr. Garland said the entire fee is going for the payment of the project so there's no budget. He said what we've tried to do to blunt the impact to the W&S fund and the general reserve fund is to put one position in the Water & Sewer and one position in the general fund and when the payment is due in July, 2019 it will be split between the two departments. Councilwoman Baccus wanted to know what truck they are referring to listed under line item 914C-380. Mr. Kinsaul said this is for a new pickup. He said he usually tries to get a new truck each year. Councilman Segars asked are we still shipping sewer to Florence. Mr. Kinsaul said we don't have anything to go to Florence because the Oil Mill is down. Mr. Garland said the option is available if it's there and we will need it one day. Mr. Kinsaul said if we have large growth and industry that want to locate on the By-Pass then we'll have that capacity on the By-Pass. Mr. Garland said we will keep that plant as long as we can. He said if we get a new industry and if something causes a problem from a chemical standpoint that we can't handle at our plant, then it goes to Florence. Ms. Lathan said this is another thing for us to keep our eye on and a keep a close analysis on in terms of what's our O&M cost versus what a new plant, plus what's new technology available to bring that on because that is also considered infrastructure and we can get grant funding. Mr. Garland said the cost for a new sewer treatment plant is approximately $7 million. Councilwoman Reed asked about line item 265 – professional services. Mr. Kinsaul said this can be for any engineering service such as Ms. Lathan, Davis & Brown, Ervin Engineering or any professional service, consulting service or lab testing that we have to pay.

WATER & SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mr. Kinsaul passed out sheets to Council that listed the Water & Sewer Priority Maintenance Projects for 2018-2019 budget year. He said most of those projects he touched on during his presentation.

WATER & SEWER RATE INCREASE

Mr. Kinsaul passed out copies of the new rates with a water rate study. said Council voted last year to do a 3% rate increase for the next five years. He said the base water bill will go up fifty-four cents. Councilman Gardner asked about the estimated revenue that this will generate and Mr. Kinsaul

said approximately $58,000. Councilman Segars asked if we need to leave the rates where they are at or do we need to increase it. Mr. Kinsaul said we're surviving, but we're not gaining any and we are still in the bottom half of the rates around us. Mr. Kinsaul said if he did anything it would be to raise that capital fee that would help replace water lines, wells, etc. He said it's been $2.00 since we implemented it. He said he would rather do this rather than increasing the basic rate and that way it would be designated to a capital project. Councilman Segars asked if the rates that we are charging now will reflect the grants that we are applying for. Mr. Kinsaul said they will look at them and so far, the revenue has met requirements. He said if your revenue gets too low RIA or whomever will dictate whether you do a rate increase if you want to maintain eligibility for grants. He said he'd rather do 3%-4% at a time and do it over a period of time rather than having to do a large increase at one time. Ms. Lathan said what the agency does is compare the rates throughout the State of South Carolina. Mr. Kinsaul said he gets the rate information off of RIA website. He said every municipality has to participate and send in their rates each year. Ms. Lathan said you have to submit the rate as part of the application process. She said they won't deny approval of the grant, but they make it conditional if they consider our rates are significantly low. Councilman Milling asked should they look at increasing the $2.00 fee by .25 cents or .50 cents? He said we need to start building toward having more money on hand when these things break down. Mayor Hines said .25 cents wouldn't be bad to start off with and then go up another .25 cents next year so we can get some of these things done. Mayor Hines said there was a sewer collapse behind her house and wonders if it's going further back. Mr. Kinsaul said on the Tallulah Street project they ended up going about 2/3 down and didn't find any pipe, so he told Frankie to quit looking for pipe. Mr. Kinsaul said he told Frankie that pipe is cheap so let Woodrow dig the ditch and put in new pipe. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul if he had a log of all of that on his computer where he keeps track of lines installed. Mr. Kinsaul said it's not logged on the computer and he would have to work on it to get the information together. Councilwoman Reed asked him where does he document this type stuff? Mr. Kinsaul said a lot of it is work orders or invoices when we pay Industrial Paving to pave. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus said, "So we're not maintaining a paper trail on the computer system"? Councilman Gardner said, "Of course we have a paper trail". Mr. Garland said the questions that keep coming up is: we don't have anything mapped out, what's been replaced and what's not. Mr. Kinsaul said he can get it, but it's not on a spreadsheet where he can pull it up. Councilwoman Bruce said, "shouldn't

we generate some kind of spreadsheet so that way, if the question comes up, we won't have to dig in a file to get the information". Mr. Garland said he's sure Davis & Brown has that information; it's just a matter of requesting them to put it in proper format for us. Councilman Milling said it may be also that we are going to have to look at our computer system at some point and time. Councilwoman Reed told Mr. Kinsaul that the work orders should be compiled somewhere so that he's able to get back to it. Mr. Kinsaul said a lot of the work orders would be on his monthly reports, but it would be a matter of going back and getting them. Ms. Jannie Lathan said one of her observations when going through the budget is she didn't see anything for IT (Information Technology) upgrades. Mr. Garland said we are not satisfied with the current IT provider. Ms. Lathan said she was not talking about emails, she's talking about for operations for your O&M. She said as they are doing projects now they get a set of "as built" drawings. She said this is so everything that goes underground the engineer is required to get the contractor to get certified "as built" drawings and they come back to them. Ms. Lathan said this will allow us to know where every piece of underground piping is, whether water, sewer or storm water, the elevations and location of the manholes. She said we need to be able to digitize that. She said if we start building that now a lot of the problems that Mr. Kinsaul and his staff are having when they go out to locate things, all of that should be computerized. She suggested that the City consider allocate some funding in the budget to start building that database. Ms. Lathan said this is a problem and almost all of her clients in rural South Carolina have this same challenge; their systems are old, but they haven't had the technology or the staff to keep up and to build that IT. She said Davis & Brown should have a lot of the old projects. Mr. Kinsaul started talking over Ms. Lathan and said everything is digitalized and they have gone back and put a lot of old information on digital. Ms. Lathan said this is something the City really should have. Councilman Gardner asked if we need to have a repository on site. Ms. Lathan said it would be good to benchmark some municipalities (Hartsville) to see what they've done. She said we need to have a GPS system. She said it's just technology that's been out there for decades and it's not terribly expensive or difficult to manage. Councilman Gardner asked what's terribly expensive? Ms. Lathan said when she said "not terribly expensive", when you look through a cost benefit ratio it would be definitely less than one. She said the benefits will tremendously outweigh the cost that you're going to invest in that. Councilman Gardner asked, "What is the cost"? Ms. Lathan said she doesn't know the cost. She said a good thing to do that doesn't cost much money is to do a benchmark study.

Mr. Kinsaul said most of the larger systems have a GIS staff. Ms. Lathan said the City needs at least one person and that person doesn't have to be full-time. She asked Council to consider this during this budget process. Councilman Gardner asked Council is they decided what they are going to do as far as raising rates. Mr. Garland said that is up to Council. Councilman Milling said before they talk about money, he thinks they need to get Mr. Garland and Ms. Lathan to make contact with somebody that's good with computers and have them come in and do an evaluation. He said once that person makes suggestions, Mr. Garland and Ms. Lathan can filter through the information and make some determinations as to what we need in order to get by. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland to get with some municipalities and find out who their vendors are and perhaps get the ball rolling to see what's available to us. Mr. Garland said that's a specialized area. Mr. Kinsaul said Rural Water has some dealings with GIS outfits. Ms. Lathan said he suggestion would be to benchmark with some local municipalities because they may be using some local vendors.

SOUTHWEST DARLINGTON STORMWATER PROJECT

Ms. Lathan said the project is coming along well and as Howard noted earlier, one of the things holding up construction was the demolition on Pearl Street. She said demolition is now complete and they made sure they had all of the permits that were required.

DRAFT BULKY REFUSE ORDINANCE

Mr. Garland gave Council a copy of the proposed ordinance for them to review and make recommendation/changes if they need to.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
BUDGET WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 21, 2017 AT 6:00 PM

The City of Darlington held a work session in the Courtroom on Monday May 21, 2018 at 6:00 PM. Present at the meeting: Mayor Gloria C. Hines, City Manager Howard Garland; Council Members: Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Bruce, John Segars, Elaine Reed, Sheila Baccus, John Milling and Bryant Gardner. Others in attendance included: City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Ms. Karen Carroll, Mr. Kendrick Holloman, and Police Chief Kelvin Washington.

Mayor Hines called the meeting to order at 6:00.

Mr. Garland said the roof at 586 W. Broad Street has been repaired. More than $50,000 in mold remediation was done in that building. Mr. Garland said we have two new cherry pickers and one new trash truck. He said we are using two crews from Disability & Special Needs that's mostly cutting grass and weed eating. He said we have one temp worker and getting ready to hire another one.

STREET & SANITATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET- MS. KAREN CARROLL

Ms. Carroll said their equipment needs are improving day by day. She said they are still in need to upgrade our pickup truck fleet. She said they just purchased a 2008 pickup truck and a 1999 pickup truck. Ms. Carroll said the employee status is running with a minimum of slotted employees and they have begun to use a temp service to complement our work force. She said we have one garbage truck driver out for an extended period of time and one garbage truck operator out to be determined; a grass crew worker on chair duty and that length is to be determined. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he advertised for these positions because if we don't know when the employees are coming back to work, citizens are going to be calling. Ms. Carroll said, "Right now we are maintaining and we are going to use temps". Councilwoman Bruce wanted to know if this is injury on the job and the reason she is asking is because if a person is out on workers comp, how long do we have to have this position vacant before we can post it? Mr. Garland said it will depend on their sick time, vacation days, or if the employee has short term disability. Councilwoman Bruce asked what is the

City's stance on the issue? Mr. Garland said we will let the employee burn through their vacation, sick time, and then they will have FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) and then they will terminate the employee after that. Mayor Hines asked, "with having three workers out and they don't know when they are coming back, can we get someone temporary to come in"? Mr. Garland said we're already doing that in the street department. Ms. Carroll said we have one temp right now and they put in for another temp today. Councilman Milling said, "Since we do have issues in that department as well and as Mr. Garland has advised them about employees aging out in other departments, whether it would do any good at some point over the summer to have a job fair and collect resumes so that we determine who our qualified people might be and then we can go to those resumes first and try to fill the position. Mayor Hines said, "I thought you were going to hold the position first"? Mr. Garland said we've got other positions to fill such as the storm water position and the beautification position. Ms. Carroll went over her budget line items calling attention to those that increased. She said the salary amount went up because of the extra person to operate the vactor truck. She went over Department 640. Ms. Carroll said in line item 640-293 – Allied Waste Roll Carts) they had to purchase new carts twice. She said she had gotten down to no blue carts and only twenty green carts. Ms. Carroll said they have to keep green roll carts on hand for big events such as Mayo Alumni, Sweet Potato Festival. She said in the last couple of years they have replaced 836 green cans and they have distributed 1,287 blue recycling cans. She said the cans are $80.00 each. Mr. Garland said the Allied Waste payment as well as the Pluff Mud payment comes out of this line item. Ms. Carroll went over Department 660 which did not have many changes. Mr. Garland thanked the Street & Sanitation employees for the work that they do. He said Council still need to help the Street & Sanitation Department as a Council and Mayor to figure out what we're going to do about the couches and chairs. He said they need to come to some type of decision because more refuse has been put out.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT – MS. LISA ROCK

Ms. Rock gave Council handouts. Mr. Garland said they are planning to hire a new employee that will work on right-of-way and medians. He said this will be a beautification person that will work full-time to make sure that the medians are kept looking good and that things are being planted and taken care of properly (Such as the Rose Garden or the median near Mitchell-Josey Funeral Home). Mr. Garland said they are planning for this person to work in Ms. Rock's department but will be supervised by the

Garden Club. They will help us develop a job description and a list of responsibilities the person will have on a day-to-day basis. Mrs. Rock said this person will do some of the other things that fall under trees and beautification rather than pulling someone from the Street Department. Mr. Garland said they plan to pay for this position and we will pay the Garden Club for supervising. Mr. Garland said he's taken $16,000 out of Lisa's budget to help with this and another $34,000 will come from the hospitality tax fund. He said he has checked with other towns and they do this where they will take money out of the hospitality tax fund to work with beautification, which is allowed. Mr. Garland said hopefully this person will take classes at Clemson and learn more about not just trimming trees, but planting trees as well. Mrs. Rock said the $16,000 Mr. Garland mentioned is the funds we are currently paying Taylor Garden Shop to keep up the medians. Councilman Milling asked Mrs. Rock or Mr. Garland to explain to him how this will work. Mrs. Rock said the employee would report to her, but the Garden Club would like the supervisory authority. Councilman Milling said he was trying to figure out who disciplines the employee and Mr. Garland said it won't be the Garden Club that takes disciplinary action. Councilwoman Bruce asked if the position has been posted yet and Mr. Garland said, "No, because Council needs to approve it". Mrs. Rock went over her budget line items explaining increases. She said her salaries has increased because of the new employee. She said advertising increased because she has put inserts into the water bills. Councilman Milling asked Mrs. Rock if she has a way to tracking to see how effective the advertising is for bringing people in. Mrs. Rock said you could, but it depends on the advertising rate. She said it's hard to measure. She said the SeeclickFix that included in the handout will answer Mr. Milling's question. She said it's a mobile and online app that will allow residents to report things, take a picture of it where they are, send you the location of where there's an issue. Mrs. Rock said once you set the software up, it will send it to the department that needs to get that message. She said Hartsville uses this and she included a sample of what the report looks like. She said this would a great tool for the City. Line item 590-273 – Hazardous tree removal. She said they plan to install seventy-three trees on S. Main Street on the opposite side of Walmart. Mrs. Rock said a lady in town passed away and left a lot of money to several different projects. The lady left some money for Williamson Park, she left a lot of money to the Historic Commission and $50,000 to the Carnegie Library. Mrs. Rock said they were in talks with the Historic Commission about them taking over the library and using it as a museum. She said they are looking at adding onto the building that they

already have as opposed to taking over the Carnegie. Mrs. Rock said they told her they would keep her up to date if things change, but he's hopeful to be able to build a brand-new building. She said as for the $50,000 we're going to get, it has to go to the Carnegie building. She suggested we go ahead and do the storefront and ADA accessibility on the Park Street side. She said when the flood came in October, the only water intrusion in the building was at the garage door because it's open at the bottom of the door. She suggested that we go ahead and fix that. Councilman Milling asked if we have any interest in lease of the building. Mrs. Rock said she had somebody talk about a restaurant, but she hasn't seen them. Councilman Gardner asked Mrs. Rock if she has an estimate for ADA accessible improvements. She said it would be within the $50,000. She said it would not make the entire building accessible. Mrs. Rock told Council, if they would like to tour the building to let her know and she will take them in.

Mr. Garland went over Department 500 which had no significant changes. In Department 510 had no significant changes. In Department 530 – Legal, Mr. Garland explained that City Attorney Etheridge has been busy and it will happen like that sometimes. In Department 550-12 PDRTA – Community Promotions, Mr. Garland said Mr. Chuck McNeil has guaranteed him that we will have bus service on Saturday if we went from $14,000 a year to $19,000 a year. Mr. Garland said he told Mr. McNeil he would give us 5 hours of bus service on Saturday for $5,000 more. Mr. Garland told Council if they want him to work on it, he will. He said if we get folks to use Saturday bus service, it's not anything that's going to go away. He said they will expect that level of service once we give it. Councilman Milling said, "We get 5 days of service for $14,000 and then we get a ½ day of service for $5,000. Mr. Garland said Mr. McNeil told him for every $1,000, he's able to leverage a certain amount of grant money. Mr. Garland said the bus service on Saturday will not be subsidized by other businesses. Mayor Hines asked if McLeod/Wilson gives any money to PDRTA. Councilwoman Reed said she didn't think they do. Mr. Garland said he asked Mr. McNeil to come to the June meeting and they can talk about it then. Mayor Hines said she knows Genesis gives. Mr. Garland said the County of Darlington does not. Councilman Gardner said he doesn't have a problem with it, but when he looks at the community promotions, it's really PDRTA promotions. Councilman Gardner said that worries him and four more years they're going to come back and ask for another $5,000. Councilwoman Reed said maybe by then we can afford it. Councilman Milling said he would like to have something in writing to justify why he

needs $5,000. Mr. Garland said he'll have Mr. McNeil present that at the June meeting. Councilwoman Baccus wanted to know when and who do we donate money to the cemetery. Mayor Hines said Mary Capers was doing it, but she's not able to do it now. Mr. Garland said one half of the cemetery is in the City and the other half is in the County. He said some of the graves are on a slope and a lot of them have caved in. He said he wrote a grant for them in 2007 and got $10,000 to have work done and they followed with donations of approximately $15,000, but there's probably $150,00 that needs to be put into it to restore the markers, finish paving the road and keep it up on a regular basis. Councilwoman Reed said she was there Friday because that's where Bobby Ross was buried and the cemetery is in dire need of care. She said her understanding is that there were three churches that are overseers. Mr. Garland said the grant is available and he will be glad to help them. He said Ms. Capers use to be our point of contact almost on a monthly basis, but he's lucky if he hears from her once or twice. Mayor Hines said Ms. Capers' brother got up in the church and said those three churches aren't donating any more and the people that were helping with cleaning of the graveyard is now deceased. Mr. Garland said if somebody would designate a contact to come work with us, we'll help them get money. Councilman Milling said this sounds like somebody else's business until it gets brought back up. Councilman Gardner asked if all of the organizations that have an amount of $200 budgeted could be increased to $500 each. Mr. Garland went over Departments 560, 570 & 580. He said we have a bond payment due in December for the General Obligation Bond and when we sell 410 Pearl Street he wants that money to be dedicated to pay the first payment on the GOB. He said that helps us balance the budget this year. Mayor Hines asked where in the budget can she find where we pay for IT people. Mr. Garland said it will show in different departments under professional services. Mayor Hines said we talked about this last year but nothing happened. She asked if we can think about changing this year. Mr. Garland said he and Police Chief Washington has met with a company and his quote to us was considerably lower than the current company we are using. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he likes it, can they do the whole City and Mr. Garland said the plan is to do the entire City. Mr. Garland said there are 41 streets that the City owns and out of those forty-one we have twelve that have serious paving issues. He said he had someone go out and do an estimate on the cost to pave those twelve streets is approximately $600,000. Mr, Garland said we need to develop a priority listing of our streets and pave one a year. He said he found out what a mil is worth and he will give Council that information later.

Final Budget meeting will be Thursday May 31, 2018.

Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
BUDGET WORK SESSION
THURSDAY MAY 31, 2018 AT 6:00 PM

The City of Darlington held a Budget Work Session in the Old Council Chambers on Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 6:00 PM. Present at the meeting: Mayor Gloria C. Hines, City Manager Howard Garland; Council Members: Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Bruce, John Segars, Elaine Reed, John Milling, Sheila Baccus and Bryant Gardner. Others in attendance included: City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington.

Mayor Hines called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

MR GARLAND

Mr. Garland said at their last meeting it was the opinion of staff that they do one City own street a year or they can do patches here and there. (He passed out a list of State owned and City owned streets to Council). Mr. Garland listed the streets by alphabet according to need with "A" being most needed. Councilman Milling asked, "what's the methodology for determining the ratings, did someone go out"? Mr. Garland said Ruthie Amerson does it for us. He said she did it for the street department years before she transferred to the Fire Department. Mr. Garland told Council this was for information only. Mr. Garland said Mr. Phillip Gaillard, Representative for Congressman Tom Rice's office was on site today and he filed an official complaint with his office about FEMA (Mr. Garland provided Council with a copy of the complaint that was faxed). He said they will run it up the flag pole and see if we will get a response. He said Hartsville and other towns have gotten their money, but it seems FEMA is giving us the run around and they keep asking for us to provide them with the same information over and over.

Mr. Garland went over the schedule of revenues explaining any increases or decreases. He said court revenue has been down because they are in transition. He said Chief Washington has met with some of the people that run the grants and they will have someone to run a DUI program and they will have a traffic officer. Councilman Gardner asked Mr. Garland how many store fronts do the have and Mr. Garland said five. Mr. Garland said chief Washington is planning to restructure his department but he will let him give them updates on that. He said the pool is in good shape and ready to go. Poolwerx is doing the cleanup of the pool, but the problem they've

had is we don't have lifeguards. Mr. garland said he instructed Mr. Andrews to get temps. Councilman Gardner asked Mr. Garland how many life guards they are trying to hire and Mr. Garland said three. Mr. Garland went over the schedule of revenues for the water & sewer department. He said the total is $2,426,047 and they are projecting $2,354,834. The difference is there won't be any money coming in for CDBG. Councilman Milling told Mr. Garland he was going to follow-up with Representative Williams about that $500,000 he was trying to get. Mr. Garland said he had to go to Senator Malloy. He said he wrote a letter and gave it to Ms. Reed and she took it to Senator Malloy's office. He said the Senator Malloy is in a position to help us right now. Mr. Garland said we're still waiting to see if the company that's painting the water tanks will take over the revenue that's collected instead of us having to pay them. Councilman Gardner said, "and take over the revenue for how long, indefinitely"? Mr. Garland said, "Yes". Mr. Garland said we won't have to pay for the two water tanks to be painted. He said if we get serious about that we'll schedule it as a legitimate agenda item. Councilman Gardner said his personal reserve is we'll pay for those water towers every four years with that revenue and it'll only take us four years to pay it off with that revenue so he would rather have that revenue in years five and after. He said he doesn't see the technology in changing. Mr. Garland said in the last two or three months he's gotten inquiries from Verizon about putting fifteen "hot boxes" around town for cell service. Councilman Gardner said if we were to sell those rights like they were talking about a month or two ago we wouldn't have that ability. Mr. Garland said this is brand new. Councilman Gardner said he understand s that but if we sold the rights we couldn't…Mr. Garland interrupted and said it's all so brand new he doesn't understand it himself. Mr. Garland continued to go over the summary of expenses. Mr. Garland said we still don't have the health insurance cost. He said we're getting several different quotes and we're looking at self-insured; partial self-insured; we're looking at completely shifting our service from BlueCross to another company and we're even going to look at the State Insurance Plan. Mr. Garland said what he would like to recommend for the future is that we have an insurance committee made up of Council and staff to look at insurance options. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland when he went over the estimated revenue for property taxes did it included any consideration as to what would be available if Council decided to pass a millage increase? Mr. Garland said it does not at the time, but he's going to give them their millage options in a few minutes. Councilman Gardner said there was discrepancies in our revenues from what was actually collected and wanted to know if

we've figured that out. Mr. Garland said it turns out that some of that money was coming from the Municipal Association. He said the auditor counts it all together and when Ms. Pridgen did the budget two years ago, she broke it up. Mr. Garland went over operating expenses and capital outlay, the General fund Recap, the W&S Fund Recap and Non-Departmental. Mr. Garland then went over W&S revenues and summary of General fund. Councilman Milling said, "On page 9 of the W&S Recap the estimated revenue of $2.4 million is showing, but where was the $500,000 going to be picked up"? Mr. Garland said that was from the reserve for the painting of the tanks. He said we didn't take it out of the line item, but we decided to take it out of the reserve. Councilman Milling said this is not the reserve capitulation. He said if you took it out of the reserve, then we've got $500,000 extra in the W&S fund recap. Mr. garland said as he explained earlier, anything for the water tanks is coming out of the W&S reserve fund and not just the regular operating account. Councilman Milling asked if page 9 is for the reserve fund and Mr. Garland said, "No Sir". Councilman Milling said we've got revenue of $2.4 million and expenditures of $1.9 million which creates $500,000 of excess revenue over expenditures and he's just trying to track where the $500,000 has gone. Mr. Garland said a lot of that money is paid out each month for the bond payments-$15,000 for the big bond payment and $3,000 for the small bond payment. Councilman Gardner said those numbers that you mentioned is only $212,000. Mr. garland said we've painted both tanks in this calendar year. He said the math adds up, but he'll go back and check that. He said he does not have an explanation for that at the moment. Mr. Garland said we've paid the roofing company $267,000 and we'll hold 25% until the punch list work is completed. He said all of the money for this has come out of the Hospitality Tax collections account. Mr. Garland said we also had to pay SCDOT their final match on the S. Main Street sidewalk grant which was just over $55,000. He said SCDOT will do the sidewalk from Mayor Hines's shop to Walgreens. They will bid the project out this fall. Mr. Garland said SCDOT is doing everything, it's a turn key project. Councilman Milling asked if we can use some of the FEMA money and Mr. Garland said FEMA is just for general fund, not for hospitality. Councilman Segars said the money should go back in the reserve fund and Mr. Garland said, "It should". Mr. Garland went over the General Obligation Bond Expenditures. He said the GOB total is $369,125.90 for Gardner Roofing, Scott Construction, Servpro, Russco Network, ADC Engineering & Quality H&C. He said the $1,000,000 GOB was put directly into the general fund because money from Hurricane Matthew never came in so we needed funds to run the City. He

said it was not out of necessity and not out of habit. Mr. garland said we can increase the millage by 2.13%. He said the current millage rate is 125 and 1 mil is worth $17,450; the CPI increase is 2.13 so we can raise 2.6625 mils x $17,450 and if they decide to raise it we would get $46,460.63 additional revenue. Mr. Garland told Council they can discuss this among themselves and decide what they want to do. Councilman Gardner said he doesn't understand and asked Mr. Garland to educate him on where this would come from from a citizen's perspective. Mr. Garland said from property taxes on your house, car, boat, motorcycle. Councilman Milling asked when the last time the City had a millage increase and Mr. Garland said in 2008. Mr. Garland told Council this will be on the agenda Tuesday night for first reading on the millage increase. He said he was asked by a Council member to look at this and they need to discuss if they want to raise millage or not. He said he hasn't included any new revenue for this amount in the budget. There was a discussion about the amount we should be collecting vs what is showing in the budget. Mr. Garland said the Bond Attorney said we're collection approximately 96% of our taxes. Based on our current millage rate of 125 mils, we should be collection $2,181,200. Councilman Milling said Bryant's figures say 96% collection would yield $2.1 million instead of $1.4 million, so there's a $600,000-$700,000 gap there and we don't know why. Mr. Garland said he doesn't know that answer. He said all the information he got about what a mil was worth came from the bond attorney because we could not get the information otherwise. Councilwoman Reed said she would like to know good figures because that would determine if we raise it or not. Council continued to discuss what we should be collection. Mr. Garland suggested that Council table second reading on the budget and table the millage until a later date. He said we've got to have 15 days' notice anyway and before we have second reading on the budget we have to have a public hearing. Mr. Garland said we will have a meeting on Thursday June 21st at 6:00 PM so we can have public hearing and then have second reading, but before then he will get with each Council member individually on the W&S budget and the millage issue.

Mr. Garland asked Council if any of them want to talk about the water & sewer rate increase. Mayor Hines said her thoughts on this is she knows we need to raise rates and get in line with other cities, but our work is not up to par. She said we keep going up and there's still not quality work in some areas. Mayor Hines said she thinks we need to hire some more people in both departments because the men are overworked and some of the men are out on sick leave. She said one of the men is sitting in the office because he can't work on the street. She said people are telling her they are not getting

quality-they are not picking up the trash when they should. She said you don't want to go up right now when you've got so many other things out there that's not happening. Mr. Garland said if you don't raise rates he'll have to go back and take $59,000 out of the water/sewer budget. Councilman Milling said personnel need to perform and if we do not have sufficient personnel then we may have to hire additional personnel but he doesn't think we can not raise the rates and lose that revenue because we'll need that revenue as a base if we have to hire new employees. Councilman Milling said he hopes we don't have employees that are intentionally missing homes on a trash collection route. Councilwoman Baccus wanted to know the last time we raised w/s rates and Mr. Garland said last year. Mr. Garland said Council voted last year to go up 3% for five years. Mayor Hines said she's not against going up because she knows we need to go up to maintain, but when you go up, "maintain". Councilwoman asked if the workers were bypassing peoples houses and the green cans are out there? Mayor Hines said her debris pickup is on Thursday and she knows they have bypass her and other people have said that they have bypassed them. Councilwoman Reed said in her area there is a push to clean up the property so they are putting more out, but they are not picking it up on a regular basis. She said one property owner was trying real hard to clean up his property so after cutting down his bushes he put them across the street because it was empty. She said, "So that's a problem". She said she is talking to them because they are making an effort to try and clean up their areas but we've got so many policies and things (we've got the new truck and that's all they see and they pass on by the debris and don't pick it up). Councilwoman Reed said she stopped the guys and they said the tree limbs are too big. She said, "Then what are you to do"? Councilwoman Reed said they are trying to get somebody out there to clean it up, tear it down and be able to put it on a pile. She said something's got to be done. She said she's also talked with Ms. Carroll about this as well and she said the limbs have to be a certain size, it has to be on the right side of the road and it can't be on an empty lot. Councilwoman Reed said she told her the citizens are making an effort to clean it up, tear it down and put it in a spot and they don't know all of these rules. Councilman Milling made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 PM. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion.

Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilman Gardner, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
JUNE 5, 2018

PRESENT AT MEETING:
Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: Elaine Reed, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Chuck McNeil, Ms. Antoinette Muldrow, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mr. T.C. Sawyer, Officer Sharon Blakney, Officer Jimmy Davis, Mrs. Rosena James, Mr. Robert Thomas and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS
Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, to approve the Minutes of May 1, 2018 Council meeting, which unanimously carried. Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman John Milling to approve the Minutes of May 3, 2018 meeting. Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus to approve Minutes of May 21, 2018 Council meeting.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA
Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, to approve the meeting agenda, which unanimously carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said on Thursday June 14th the DDRA will continue its "Bringing Downtown Alive concert series at Liberty Lane and Pearl Street. The Bout Time Band of Darlington will perform with the Darlington Kiwanis Club staffing the event. She said Pepsi of Florence and Wilson Senior Care have already committed to assisting with this project. Papa John's will be site selling pizza by the alongside Kona Ice selling snow cones and C&C Ribs & Bar-B-Que selling ribs and bar-b-que. Dustin James and Hank Edwards will perform on July 12th; they will hold a community karaoke party with S&T Entertainment on August 9th and Radio Vibe will perform for the final concert on Friday August 31st during race week. She said the concert committee is in the process of securing additional sponsors and vendors so if anyone is interested in being a vendor/sponsor or helping to organize the events should contact her office. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA invites businesses to network and learn about their programs and give feedback on future projects at their monthly members breakfast. The next monthly breakfast for members is 8:00 AM Wednesday June 27, 2018 at Takis Diner. Breakfast will be provided for member businesses at no charge and a small donation of $5.00 towards the meal for nonmember businesses. Those meetings will continue monthly through October on the last Wednesday of the month. The DDRA still has funds available for improvement incentive program. The 50/50 matching grant of up to $1,000 can go towards façade improvements such as a fresh cost of paint, or repairs to the front entrance or adding new awnings or signage. The grant application is available on the City website at buildupdarlington.org or from her office. She said the Board has approved $5,000 for calendar year 2018. Councilwoman Bruce asked Mrs. Rock if there is a reason why she does Bringing Downtown Alive on Thursday vs Friday. Mrs. Rock said last year she tried having it on a Saturday and a Friday and there were mixed results. She said a lot of people are out of town on Saturday. She said what she found by looking at FaceBook for downtown Florence and Hartsville Main Street and their events a lot of the folks from Darlington were in Florence on Fridays so when we had an event they weren't here they were in Florence instead. Mrs. Rock said we were doing it on Thursday to avoid Florence because they have first Friday, final Friday and third Friday. She said that only leaves one Friday of the month that isn't taken by an event so we decided to try Thursday this year.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –MS. LIZ GAINEY

Ms. Gainey said on Thursday May 10th the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce sponsored the first "Open House Darlington" and it was a huge success. Ms. Gainey said they did have one property sale during the Open House. Ms. Gainey said the planning stages for Freedom Fest is almost over and that time is almost here. She said to mark June 30th at 5:00 on your calendar for Freedom Fest.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK

Mr. Boyd Jackson – Green Waste Pickup

Mr. Jackson said he was at the water board and he asked them why they didn't pick up the leaves and branches and the lady said because he doesn't have a water meter on that property. Mr. Jackson said he told her if he's paying taxes on that lot why can't they pick up the debris and she said that's how they have it and maybe he can go talk to Council and maybe they can explain it to him. Mayor Hines said what we usually do is if you are paying a water/sewer bill we will pick up, but not just for paying taxes. Mr. Garland told Mr. Jackson he would have to pay a sanitation fee which includes yard debris, recycling and regular garbage pickup. Mr. Jackson said, "So what you're telling me is because I don't have a meter on there and don't pay sanitation, you're not going to pick that up"? Mr. Garland said, "No Sir, I said if you want it you have to pay the sanitation fee to get the yard debris picked up". Mr. Jackson said, "Then why do I pay school taxes if I've never had any kids in school"? Mr. Garland said, "All I can do is tell you the ordinance which says if you want to have your yard debris picked up you have to pay a sanitation fee". Mr. Garland said, "I can't answer a question about school taxes". Mayor Hines told Mr. Jackson what he can do is bring the debris to his house on Pine Street. Mr. Jackson said, "Ok". Councilman Gardner said and if you were to pay the sanitation fee I'm sure they would pick it up. Mayor Hines said, "He pays a sanitation fee for Pine Street". Councilman Gardner said he's not sure if he can take it from one property to another. He said the fee is only a few dollars a month and Mr. Garland said it's $23.00 a month. Mr. Jackson asked what's the incentive for people to keep their lot clean. Mr. Garland said it depends on what's on the code and what's enforced on the code. Councilwoman Reed said," What about considering the fact that he is paying a sanitation fee at one property and the would be inclusive of another price". Mr. Garland said if Council wants to change the ordinance so that it reads differently he will be glad to include that. He said with something like this, if you make one allowance

then you have to make all allowances. Mr. Garland told Council if they want to change, that's fine, but they will have to change the ordinance. Mayor Hines told Mr. Jackson they will talk about this.

Mr. Garland – Mr. Bobby Ross

Mr. Garland said Mr. Bobby Ross passed recently and was a friend to many. He said Mr. Ross loved and wanted the best for Darlington. He said for over 20 years Bobby styled something he called the "Darlington Central Park South" trail which would be a walking, hiking and biking trail which would encompass the entire City of Darlington. Mr. Garland said since Mr. Ross has passed he doesn't want folk to forget his dream of bringing our town together through a biking, hiking and walking trail. He said he would hope Mayor and Council (whether it's this Council or a future Council) would name part or all of the trail for Mr. Ross.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2018-09 (2018-2019 BUDGET) APPROVAL

Councilman Segars made a motion for Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-09 (2018-2019 Budget). Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Mr. Garland said since we have the issue of millage that's before us this evening we need to schedule a special meeting either June 21st or June 28th depending on what they do this evening with the millage. He said if there's a millage rate increase we need to have a public hearing and then we'll have to have a special meeting to approve that.

B) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-10 BUSINESS LICENSE COLLECTION

Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilman Segars, Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-10 Business License Collection, which unanimously carried.

C) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-11 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTICE

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-11 Tax Anticipation Notice. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

A) NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK PROCLAMATION

Mayor Hines read a proclamation proclaiming June 3rd – 9th as Garden Week throughout the City of Darlington. A picture was taken of Mayor Hines presenting the proclamation to Ms. Linda Beckham.

B) KEY TO THE CITY – MAYOR GLORIA C. HINES

Mayor Hines presented Mr. Howard Nettles with a "Key to the City of Darlington". Mayor Hines said Mr. Nettles donated money to the City of Darlington from Genesis. Mr. Nettles was also instrumental in securing funds for the new "Welcome to Darlington" sign on Highway 52.

C) PDRTA – MR CHUCK MCNEIL

Mr. McNeil passed out copies of pie charts which were created as a result of answers from a survey from people that ride the DART bus. Mr. McNeil said the ridership data he has was through April. He said from July 1st through April 30th they have provided 6,227 trips. In April 2017 they had 500 trips and in April of this year they had 728 trips and it shows that ridership is up 7.5%. Mr. McNeil said it's clearly beneficial because those folks are going to either earn money or spend money, so it's economic development in addition to quality of life and other significant impacts. Mr. McNeil said the funding page of the survey shows what the total for them to provide the DART bus and the commuter bus which runs two times a day between Darlington and FDTC (Florence -Darlington Technical College). He said the basic resources to provide that total is mostly federal funds. He said that's how PDRTA and all public transit works in the country; they can leverage federal grant dollars by trying to secure as much non-federal money that they possibly can. Mr. McNeil said it's really a significant incentive for them to try to get local investment and support in what they do because it's a very small percentage of what they actually need to cover the cost of providing the service. He said the request from the City this year is the same as it's been for the past few years. He asked Council to consider this. Mr. McNeil said in regard to Saturday service in terms of what they would need from a local level to provide the service would be approximately $700.00 for each hour of service a week the entire year. Mr. McNeil said for four hours on Saturday it would be about $2,800 for fifty-two weeks. Mayor Hines said, "Are you saying that we need roughly $2,800 to have four hours for Saturday service"? Mr. McNeil said every Saturday for fifty-two weeks. He said the $2,800 is not the total cost, but that's what they would need to access federal funds to make it all work. Mayor Hines asked him if this

extra was for the whole year. Mr. McNeil said for Saturday service above and beyond what they do Monday-Friday. Councilman Milling said, "Are you saying the partnership that you have with Genesis and any other partnerships provide you with $14,000 a year"? Mr. McNeil said, "Yes". Mr. McNeil said in addition to Genesis, whatever advertising they can sell on the exterior of the buses can contribute to the local revenue they need. He said money collected in the fare box cannot be used as part of the local match. Mayor Hines asked Mr. McNeil if McLeod gives them money and Mr. McNeil said they do, but only for a free downtown shuttle they operate in Florence. Mayor Hines asked if the bus goes to McLeod/Wilson and he said they do, but they don't get any funding. She asked about the drugs stores such as Walgreen, Carolina Drug, CVS and Mr. McNeil said, "No". Mr. McNeil said he has tried some pharmacies but he hasn't had any success yet. Mayor asked about Food Lion and Walmart. She said she knows Walmart should give something, but Mr. McNeil said he's spoken to the Manager there and he supports it and allowed them to put the bus shelter there. Mayor Hines the man is not at Walmart any more. Mr. McNeil said he will try to talk with the new Manager at Walmart. He said there are certain doors they haven't avoided, but they haven't been able to do everywhere. Mayor Hines told Mr. McNeil that Council will discuss it.

D) MS. ANTOINETTE MULDROW – DARLINGTON MEMORIAL CEMETERY

Ms. Antionette Muldrow said this cemetery is a historical African-American cemetery located on Avenue D & Friendship Street. She said this cemetery has been in Darlington since 1890 and at one time it was the only African-American cemetery in Darlington. Ms. Muldrow said on March 17, 2014 this cemetery was added to the National Register of Historical places with a marker placed in the cemetery including Macedonia Baptist, Bethel AME & St. James Methodist Church cemetery. She said a committee was formed to upkeep the cemetery but at this time most of the members have died or are sick. She said at this time the cemetery has grown out of control. Her concern is there aren't any funds to upkeep the cemetery. She said there are two large trees that have fallen and they need to be cut and removed; grave markers need to be cleaned and the grass needs to be cut. Ms. Muldrow said even though several family members have gone there and have been cutting, with over ninety acres of property, that's a lot to keep up. She said she knows this can't be done overnight and will probably have to be done in phases. Ms. Muldrow said she received a bid from one company to remove the two trees and is waiting on another bid. She said she's talked to several

persons in the Darlington area that's also concerned about the cemetery and want to know if there are any grants that the City has that they can apply for to help with this project. Ms. Muldrow said they are still contacting churches and family members to help with this project. She said anything that Council can do to help with this will be most appreciative. Mayor Hines asked Ms. Muldrow if she's talked with the Warsaw family yet and she said, "Yes". Ms. Muldrow said there are other persons that's on the original committee and there are also some funds there, but the money that's there won't even touch the surface. Mayor Hines asked Ms. Muldrow if she talked to anybody about writing a grant for it. Ms. Muldrow said she wanted to come to City Council first and see if there were any grants that they could get through the City. She said after talking to some of the committee members they will see if they can go through the National Register and see if there's anything they can apply for. Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Rock if she knows of any grants they can apply for. Mrs. Rock asked Ms. Muldrow if she talked to the Historic Preservation office in Columbia yet and Ms. Muldrow said she has not. Mrs. Rock told her that might be a good place to start. Mrs. Rock asked her if she has any idea what kind of money she needs to do the upkeep or to do one phase of it. Ms. Muldrow said one of the bids that they got for the two large trees that are down is $5,000. Mayor Hines told Ms. Muldrow that Mrs. Rock will be glad to give her the information so she can call and see what she can do about getting some grants. Councilman Milling said he's familiar with where the cemetery is and its historical significance but wanted to know who the owner of the cemetery is. Ms. Muldrow said the first church the bought the cemetery was Macedonia Baptist in 1890 and gradually Bethel AME bought several acres, then St. James bought some, but the rest of the property she doesn't know about. Councilman Milling said some cemeteries operate with premise that there's people buried there and charges are made so much of that money is set aside in perpetuity to continue maintenance. He asked if anybody looked at fundraising among the church organizations and Ms. Muldrow said she will check and see. Councilwoman Baccus asked Mr. Garland if the City gives a donation to the cemetery and Mr. Garland said, "yes, $200.00". Mr. garland said Council members have money that's available for them to give so if they want to give some of their community promotions money to the cemetery, they can do that. Mr. Garland said eleven years ago the City worked with that committee that Ms. Muldrow is talking about and we got a grant and a study was done. He said one thing that was suggested by the study was that since the cemetery is half in the City and half in the County that if we wanted to look at helping the entire cemetery, we would annex in

the whole thing. He said he thinks Ms. Warsaw-Capers has that study. Mr. Garland said we would be willing to help from a grant writing standpoint to submit anything to S.C. Department of Archives & History to help with that. Mayor Hines said she thinks the Warsaw's have some money in the bank and if they don't relinquish that we can still go with this? Mr. Garland said the group set up as a non-profit in 2007 to do a lot of this work and the apparatus is there you've just got to find the paperwork. He said they probably need to update the officers and then get it registered with the State of South Carolina to make sure it's a registered non-profit.

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-12 TAX MILLAGE RATE

Mr. Garland told Mayor and Council they told him to put together a three year look back at the City of Darlington millage rate which is allowed by State Law. He said in 2015 the CPI was 1.62%; In 2016-2017 it was .12%; In 2017-2018 was 1.26% and 2018-2019 CPI is 2.13%. (Information was emailed previously to each Council member) He told Council if they look at each year listed it gives a different rate of what we can add. He said everything all together if you include the 3-year lookback and this year CPI increase would give you 6.4125 mils. He said you have the maximum capability of raising the millage $111,898. He said it's also State Law that if you want to do just a one-year lookback or a two-year lookback, you can do that, but the maximum you can do is three years. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland how many readings would we have to have. Mr. Garland said we would need to have the first one this evening but the second one we need to have at least 15 days from today's date because we have to advertise it in the media and we have to have a public hearing on the increase. Mr. Garland said our current millage rate is 125 mils and a mil is worth $17,450. Councilman Milling said we currently have only have $4,445.46 to meet any unknown emergencies. Mr. Garland said that's correct and that money could be transferred from the LOST and from the general fund account to put money back in there. He said we sre still waiting for $440,00 from FEMA. Mayor Hines asked if this will go in the reserve fund and Mr. Garland said if you want it to go in the reserve fund, we can do that.

Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the three-year lookback millage rate that Mr. Garland talked about. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

Mr. Garland told Mayor Hines they need to make a motion to take the money from the millage increase to go into the reserve fund.

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion that the money from the

millage increase goes into the reserve fund. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.
Mr. Garland said we will need to meet Thursday June 28th since we have to wait 15 days for this. He said we'll have a public hearing at 6:00 and a meeting at 6:30 to approve this.

F) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-13 ANNEXATION OF 224 BLUE STREET
Mayor Hines said the owners of a double-wide trailer on Blue Street their well went bad and they wanted to get water from the County but the connect fee was $1,200 and since the City was cheaper so they decided to annex into the City. Councilwoman Reed asked if we could annex a trailer. Mrs. Rock said this is not the mobile home it's a house next to the mobile home.
Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-13 Annexation of 224 Blue Street. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

Comment [w1]:
Comment [w2R1]:

G) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-14 ZONING 224 BLUE STREET
Councilman Gardner wanted to know the zoning around this property. Mrs. Rock said there are 3 different zoning in that area (General Commercial, R-6 & R-10). Mrs. Rock said based on the definition of what those zoning districts are is how the Planning Commission recommended that Council zone it R-6 – High Density Residential. **Upon motion of Councilman Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Baccus, First Reading on Ordinance 2018-14 Zoning of 224 Blue Street to R-6 High Density Residential.**

H) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-15 WATER/SEWER RATE INCREASE
Upon motion of Councilwoman Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Reed First Reading on Ordinance 2018-15 water/Sewer rate increase.
Mr. Garland said the increase is 3% inside City and 3% outside City Limits.
All approved the motion.

I) POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS – CHIEF KELVIN WASHINGTON
Chief Washington said on June 26th they will be doing a series of promotions within the police department. He said they are restructuring and reorganizing to bring about better accountability. He said there will not be

any increase to the budget. Chief Washington said the main reason for the restructure ads reorganization is to promote accountability and to spread some of the duties out. Chief Washington told Council he would like for them to go ahead and approve the resolution that they tabled at the last meeting. He said and City Attorney Etheridge wanted to determine whether or not they could pass the Mutual Aid Agreement with a resolution instead of an ordinance. He said they called the Municipal Association the next day and they told us we would be able to do it with a resolution. Chief Washington said the way they have written this resolution is that they would be able to give Mr. Garland the authority to go ahead and enter into these mutual aid agreements on behalf of the City**. Councilman Milling made a motion that this resolution allow and approving multi-jurisdictional agreements be passed by Council. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

Chief Washington said last week the police department employees participated in courtroom security. He told Council he knows they have seen the metal detector in front of the council chambers for the last month or so and he was waiting to receive training. He said he had a friend of his with the U.S. Marshall's Office come in and conduct training last week and they will begin utilizing the metal detector next week for court. He said they will also be utilizing it for Council meetings as well. Chief Washington said they will also be providing security at all of the Council meetings as well. Chief Washington thanked the members of Council who was able to come and attend the firearms simulator training a couple of weeks ago. He thought it was an excellent training for our officers, members of Council and members of the community to get a general idea of what police officers go through on a day-to-day basis; the limited amount of time that they have to make a split-second decision with many of them being shoot/don't shoot situations. Chief Washington said Todd Williams from the Municipal Association did a marvelous job with the officers. He was able to talk them through some of the mistakes they made and he asked them the reasons why they made some of the decisions during those shoot/don't shoot scenarios.

BOARD /COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Rock said it's coming to the end of the fiscal year so a lot of board member terms are ending. She said several people have said they are willing to be appointed and some are not. **Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus to reappoint Mr. Keith**

Taylor to the Historic Landmark Commission. All approved the motion.

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded by Councilman Segars to reappoint Ms. Catherine Howle to the Historic Landmark Commission which unanimously carried.

Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner to appoint Mr. George Chase to the Historic Landmark Commission which unanimously carried.

Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner to appoint Ms. Rose Pruitt to the Historic Landmark Commission, which unanimously carried. Mrs. Rock said that leaves one alternate seat open on this board. She said there is one seat available on the Beautification Board and the Planning Commission Board has several people that are rolling off and there are some open alternate seats. She said Ms. Joan Alston wishes to be reappointed to this Board. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to reappoint Ms. Joan Alston to the Planning Commission Board. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

Upon motion of Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner, to reappoint Mrs. Ouida Page to the Planning Commission Board, which unanimously carried.
Mrs. Rock said that leaves us with one seat and one alternate seat available on the Planning Commission. She said this year it's imperative that they complete the commission membership because they are going to start working on the comprehensive plan. Mrs. Rock said the last appointment is the Board of Zoning Appeals. She said this is a critical board to have full because if they don't have enough people to show up for a quorum it causes an issue with variance requests. She said they have two seats that are open and Mr. William Jackson who previously served on the board would like to be reappointed. **Upon motion of Councilman Gardner seconded by Councilwoman Bruce to reappoint Mr. William Jackson to the Zoning Board of Appeals, which unanimously carried.** Mrs. Rock said if anybody has any suggestions or anyone interested in serving on a board can call her office and she can tell them what they will be doing or how often they would meet.

REMINDERS

Saturday June 30, 2018 – Freedom Fest Darlington Raceway – 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Wednesday July 4, 2018 July 4th Holiday – All City Offices Closed
Tuesday July 10, 2018 at 6:30 PM – Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2017 AT 6:00 PM
&
SPECIAL MEETING AT 6:30 PM

The City of Darlington held a Public Hearing to hear public and Council comments on the proposed 2018-2019 budget, tax levy, and water & sewer rate increase. Those in attendance included: Mayor Gloria C. Hines, City Manager Howard Garland, Council Members: Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Bruce, Elaine Reed, John Segars, John Milling, Sheila Baccus and Bryant Gardner. Others in attendance included: Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Mrs. Lisa Rock, Mr. Kinsaul, City Attorney Mr. Kelvin Etheridge and Ms. Anna Dewitt.

Mayor Hines called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and opened the floor for public comment.

There was no public comment nor comment from Council on 2018-2019 Budget, Millage rate and W&S rate increase.

Councilman John Milling made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:02 PM. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

Council took a break until time for the 6:30 meeting.

CITY OF DARLINGTON
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY JUNE 28, 2018 – 6:30 PM

Mayor Hines called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2018-09 (2018-2019 BUDGET)

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, to approved Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-09 (2018-2019 budget), which unanimously carried.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2018-12 TAX LEVY

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-12 Tax Millage Rate. Mr. Garland said our old millage rate is 125 mils and our new millage rate will be 131.4125 mils. Mayor Hines asked Councilwoman Bruce to restate her motion and include the new millage rate. **Councilwoman Bruce made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-12 Tax Millage Rate at 131.4125. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2018-15 WATER/SEWER RATE INCREASE

Mr. Kinsaul said the increase will be .27 cents on water and .27 on sewer for a total increase of .54 cents.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-15 Water & Sewer Rate Increase of 9.27 for water and 9.27 for sewer. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

ADJOURN

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
SPECIAL MEETING AT 6:00 PM &
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY - JULY 10, 2018

PRESENT AT MEETING:
Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: Elaine Reed, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Officer Jimmy Davis, Ms. Karen Carroll, Mr. Danny Dubose, and other visitors.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to go into Executive Session: Personnel at 6:01 PM to discuss the City Manager's contract extension. The City of Darlington may or may not vote after closing session. **Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion**. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to end Executive Session at 6:51 PM. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion.**

After coming back into regular session, **Councilman Milling said they have come back after executive session which was held for purposes of discussing an extension of the City Manager's contract and he make a motion that the contract be extended until July 1, 2020. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion.** Mayor asked for a show of hands for the ones that voted, "aye". **Councilpersons John Milling, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce and Bryant Gardner voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Hines and Councilwomen Sheila Baccus and Elaine Reed voted against the motion. (Motion carries)** Councilman Milling propose that Council have a work session in August where they go through our City ordinance and further define duties and responsibilities of the City Manager as they may be found in the current document. He said they also discussed among themselves a good way that when there's an issue that needs to be addressed that everybody is on board and everybody understands so each one will know what's happening and as they communicate with Mr. Garland he knows they are communicating with him as a unified Council.

Councilman Milling said he would like to have this set up as a work session in late July or early August.

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to go out of executive session. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion.

REGULAR MEETING BEGAN

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning News.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman John Milling did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilman John Milling, to approve the Minutes of May 15, 2018 Council meeting, which unanimously carried. Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilman John Milling to approve the Minutes of May 31, 2018 meeting, which unanimously carried. Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilman John Milling to approve Minutes of June 5, 2018 Council meeting, which unanimously carried. Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilman John Milling to approve the Minutes of June 28, 2018, which unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, to approve the meeting agenda, which unanimously carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said this Thursday the DDRA continues its "Bringing Downtown Alive free concert series at Liberty Lane and Pearl Street. Dustin James and

Hank Edwards will perform with the Darlington Lions Club staffing the event. She said special thanks to Fast Track convenience stores, Pepsi of Florence, Wilson Senior Care, the Darlington Rescue Squad, Belk Funeral Home, Kistler Funeral home and Andrews & Bryant, Inc. Papa John's will be on site selling pizza by the alongside Mike's Italian Ice and C&C Ribs & Bar-B-Que selling ribs and bar-b-que. Medic of South Carolina and the DDRA will present a community karaoke party with S&T Entertainment on Thursday August 9th and Radio Vibe will perform for the final concert on Friday August 31st during race week. She said anyone interested in helping with the concerts and events may contact her office. She said they will have cruise-in on Thursday night as well. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA invites businesses to network and learn about their programs and give feedback for future projects at their monthly members breakfast. The next monthly breakfast for members is 8:00 AM Wednesday July 25, 2018 at Takis Diner. Breakfast will be provided for member businesses at no charge and a small donation of $5.00 towards the meal for nonmember businesses. Those meetings will continue monthly through October on the last Wednesday of the month. The DDRA still has funds available for improvement incentive program. The 50/50 matching grant of up to $1,000 can go towards façade improvements such as a fresh cost of paint, or repairs to the front entrance or adding new awnings or signage. The grant application is available on the City website at buildupdarlington.org or from her office. She said their most recent recipient Singletary Auto Repair not only painted the front of his building, but he painted his antique telephone booth and updated his signage. She said when they went to get the photo to present the grant to him, he donated that $1,000 to his church.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –
(No one present)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) PUBLIC HEARING ANNEXATION 224 BLUE STREET
Mayor Hines opened the floor for public hearing on annexation of 224 Blue Street. Mr. Ernest Edwards said his well went dry so he applied for city water and he received it. Mayor Hines told Mr. Edwards that Council approved it and wanted to know if there was a problem with it. Mr. Edwards said he has no problem with it and everything is fine.

No one else came forward to speak, so Mayor Hines closed the public hearing.

B) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-13 ANNEXATION OF 224 BLUE STREET

Councilman Milling made a motion to approve Second Reading to approve the annexation at 224 Blue Street which is ordinance 2018-13. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

C) PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING OF 224 BLUE STREET TO R-6

Mayor Hines said they now need to have a public hearing on the zoning of 224 Blue Street. Mr. Garland said he would like for Mrs. Lisa Rock to explain what the R-6 designation means. Mrs. Rock said the Planning Commission reviewed all the zoning designations in that area (General Commercial, R-6 & R-10). She said R-6 is what the Planning Commission chose based on what is actually on the property at this time. She said there's currently a bricked-in doublewide which is behind Springfield Apartments. Mrs. Rock said if the adjoining property owners were to have a similar issue with their wells, they will probably end up zoning it the same way. There were no other comments, so the public hearing was closed.

D) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-14 ZONING 224 BLUE STREET TO R-6

Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-14 the Zoning of 224 Blue Street to R-6 High Density Residential. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

PATRICIA SULLIVAN – DARLINGTON COUNTY FIRST STEPS

Ms. Sullivan said she works with Darlington County First Steps as a Communication Specialist and she's also the coordinator for the Choose Well Grant that they received through the New Morning Foundation. Ms. Sullivan said the mission of First Steps is to provide program services and information to strengthen families and communities in Darlington County and their vision is strong families and healthy communities. She said they have a lot of programs, but they focus on family strengthening. Other programs include school transitioning, reproductive health education. She said for the youth they have youth leadership teams, so they work with adolescents, contraceptive care, educational counseling which is birth

control counseling for the parents. Ms. Sullivan told Council today she wanted to talk about the contraceptive care side of things. Ms. Tiffany Byrd and she's the Manager for an organization called Choose Well. She said Choose Well is a four-year initiative that's focused on decreasing the rates of unwanted pregnancy in South Carolina. Ms. Byrd said the organization is funded by a South Carolina based non-profit called New Morning Foundation and they have been around for about a decade or so. Ms. Byrd said their vision is to see in South Carolina where there's equitable access to all methods of birth control without persons receiving any coercion, judgment or stigma. She said what they want to see in South Carolina where women, men and their families are not forced to use any particular method of birth control, but who has access to whatever method they desire and are not judged for their choice. Ms. Byrd said in South Carolina over half of all pregnancies are unintended. Ms. Byrd said South Carolina pays for about 79% of all unintended births which totals about $84 million dollars a year. She said babies born from unintended pregnancies are more likely to be of low birth weight, longer hospital stays and more likely to be sent home with the equipment to help with broken development. She said these babies are less likely to be breast fed and we all know that breast milk is the best for broken development. Ms. Sullivan said moms who experience an unintended pregnancy are less likely to have had prenatal care which could mean that she is not in her healthiest state for pregnancy and this has been associated with increased risk for complications during and after labor. Ms. Sullivan said that Choose Well is an initiative that is focused on working with partners like Darlington County First Steps and other health care providers across the State to ensure that the community can be educated on birth control options that are available to them and to ensure that they can get connected with a provider so that they can get those methods without cost being a barrier. Mayor Hines told Ms. Sullivan she knows contraceptives are in the beauty shops and asked her if there were any other special place she wants to put them and Ms. Sullivan said, "Yes". Ms. Sullivan said they were interested in the Darlington Recreation Department as an extension of the program the Mayor was talking about. Ms. Sullivan said they call the program ACDC which stand for Access Condoms in Darlington County where they partner with barbershops, beauty shops, small businesses and individuals to disseminate condoms free of charge. She said they put the condoms in those places because those are more non-judgmental locations for clients. Councilwoman Bruce asked Ms. Sullivan if this was just for information or is she asking to be able to put the condoms in different locations and Ms. Sullivan said "Yes". Ms. Sullivan told Council

they should have an infographic in their packet which shows the County ranking. Ms. Sullivan asked Council if she could start a healthy precedent in Darlington which is very different, but they just can't sweep it under the rug like it's not a necessity for our community. She said it would be a great opportunity to have it at the Darlington Recreation Department and to work with them and devise a plan that is comfortable for everyone, but very beneficial for the people who need the service. Ms. Sullivan asked Council if they would grant them permission to work with them and create a strategic plan to work with them and put condoms in their facility in discrete locations. Councilwoman Elaine Reed said her only concern with putting condoms at the recreation department is the ages because they have them from four or five years old. Councilwoman Reed asked Ms. Sullivan if working with the recreation department would limit the exposure to that age group. Ms. Sullivan said they understand there are children that shouldn't have it in their face at the moment, but she would like the opportunity to work with Mr. Brantley Jett since he's there every day and he knows the atmosphere and the ins and outs. Councilman Segars said, "Are you going to be educating these kids, or teenagers or young adults? You're not promoting sex, you're going to try and educate them on possibly abstinence rather than promoting sex"? Ms. Sullivan said that's always promote abstinence first, but things do happen and in case they do, they want to make sure they are prepared. Councilman John Milling asked Ms. Sullivan if they would be staffing or would they be relying upon city employees to be involved in disbursing and dispensing? Ms. Sullivan said it would depend on how Mr. Brantley Jett would like it facilitated. Councilman Milling told Ms. Sullivan he would like for her to talk with Mr. Jett and after they have some proposition, come back to Council with how they think it can be achieved. Councilman Milling said at this point and time some of them might not be as familiar with this program as others may be. Ms. Sullivan said it's not really a heavy responsible, she said with their current ACDC partners, they just give them the condoms and the people know where to go to get them. Mayor Hines said what about putting the condoms in the office away from the smaller children and the older adults can go there and get them. Councilman Milling asked Brantley Jett if he was comfortable with this and He said not at their Sanders Street location, but maybe at the A.W. Stanley location where they older kids are. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce said from her experience in the Darlington County School District, there are kids as early as ages 10 and 12 that are engaging in sex, so they know what's going on. She said she thinks it would be beneficial in both locations. Councilman Bryant Gardner said he has no problem with that, but he would

say we don't put them in the office and find a more discrete area that will educate them that condoms are in this place. Ms. Sullivan said they have logos, or window decals letting people know condoms are available. Councilwoman Elaine Reed said she retired from the Department of Health and Human Services every since 2010 and is surprised that Darlington is just getting to this because they were all over the State promoting this. Councilwoman Reed said she is in favor of this. Councilman Milling asked where the locations are where First Steps operates its traditional purposes. Ms. Sullivan suggested they browse their website Darlingtoncountyfirststeps.org and it lists all their programs and services. Ms. Sullivan said Mrs. Darnell McPherson is the mastermind behind everything and Executive Director. Ms. McPherson gave a shout-out to Mrs. Lisa Rock because when they started on the journey of pregnancy prevention Mrs. Rainey Knight was the School Superintendent and Mrs. Lisa Rock was the editor of the Hartsville Messenger. Mrs. McPherson said Mrs. Rock wrote a Pulitzer Prize winning article that she wrote that was on the front page of the paper that succinctly indicated to people that we needed to do something. Mrs. McPherson said they get funding from The New Morning Foundation through the Choose Well, but the Duke Endowment has also funded their pregnancy prevention initiative. Mrs. McPherson said they just want to make sure that the young people have access and information and they have a healthy community. **Mayor Hines & Councilwoman Reed made a motion that we accept Darlington County First Steps and allow them to come in and bring condoms to both recreation departments, talk with them first, leave brochures and put them in a place where students might need them. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

B) ANTHONY GREEN – FATHERHOOD GROUP

Mr. Anthony Green along with Mr. Terrence Turner, Craig Lightfoot and Daniel Blathers appeared before Council to introduce themselves and talk a little about their program Man 2 Man. Mr. Green said the Man 2 Man Fatherhood Program is an 18-month program that is geared toward strengthening and bridging the gap between fathers, families and making them strong again. He said fathers that may be 18 years of age that have children at least under the age of eighteen. Mr. Green said they also have mothers in the program as well. He said they work with the individuals diligently to try and strengthen them to see what the factors is to bring them back into the work force to make sure they are providers once again for the families. Mr. Green said there may be situations where they may be

individuals that may or may not be with their children. He said many participants that are referred to them and those that they recruit sometimes have child support issues. He said they work diligently with the Department of social Services whom they have a contract with. He said if an individual is facing incarceration due to child support, because of their partnership with them and with the court; the court will allow individuals to come to their program. He said this starts the 18-month period. Mr. Green said they take the individual through a five-point component where they try to strengthen the individual with parenting skills, co-parenting skills and help to strengthen them for healthy relationships and job readiness. Mr. Green said oftentimes these individuals are labeled as "deadbeat dads" but working with them throughout the several months that they have, they have come to understand that these individuals are not deadbeat dads, they are just "dead broke". He said they try to get the individuals to understand there's a responsibility factor to get back into the work force and the greatest of all, to have the individual to understand it's time to be a "father". Mr. Green said there's the economic stability factor that they've presented. He said many of their individuals do not understand the child support system and it causes errors to the point where there's a fallout between mother and father because of a financial issue. He said they bring the father back full scale to understand in the part of healthy relationships, respect the mother regardless of the situation because at the end of the day, they are both parents. He said their program covers five counties which is Darlington, Florence, Marlboro County, Dillon and Chesterfield. They have two offices which the main office is in Bennettsville and another in Florence at 1321 W. Evans Street. Mr. Green said in Darlington County they have started conducting sessions every Monday from 10:00 AM – 12 noon and if individuals do not have transportation they will pick them up, bring them to the session and provide them with a meal. He said to many of their participants, this is the only meal they have. He many are coming for the meal, but at the same time they are giving them the strength and verbal instilment that they need to become a part of their families' lives again. He said they conduct a session in the Florence office on Monday from 2:00 PM-4:00 and in the Hartsville office on Wednesdays from 4:00 PM– 6:00 PM. Mr. Green said their program is unique because as you think about fatherhood programs not many come to mind. He said they have an employment readiness boot camp. He said it's a five-day boot camp where they put them through everything from learning employment law to make them employment ready; preparation on how to apply for a job and also resume building. He said if an individual doesn't have the proper clothing to do an interview, they have a clothing closet at

their office. Once they finish this boot camp they receive a certification, a leather binder and a flash drive where they can keep up with their resumes and information on contacts and how they can contact employers. Mr. Green said Mr. Craig Lightfoot connects individuals with employment around the area. He said he actually goes to employment places such as Otis Elevator, Johnson Controls, GE and Honda. He said these places have partnered with them because of Mr. Lightfoot, so their participants (when they are employment ready) are going right in the door making a strong wage opposite of what they would make with a temp service. He said they have a high number of success stories and maybe at a later date they can bring some of those persons. Mr. Green said they just wanted to come tonight to introduce themselves and let them know that they are here and some of the things they are doing in Darlington and Florence Counties. He said as of 2017 they have 374 participants served. The children that have had a positive impact under the fatherhood program is 855. They have a 72% reported and improved relationship with their children. 43% with a child support order have paid their child support. Mr. Green said since the Man 2 Man Program they have helped over 2,067 fathers prepare to meet their material, emotional and spiritual needs of their children. He said 116 men employed full-time, part-time or temporary one month or more that they have done. Mr. Green said their program is absolutely free to the individual. He said their program is non-profit and under 501(c) (3) and donations are desperately needed. He said maybe they will come back at a later date and talk about that. Mayor Hines asked him if he was trying to get a building here in Darlington and he said, "Yes". Mr. Garland said from time to time we have job openings and if he has his economic developer get in contact with us, we will happy to let them know what's available.

C) PROPOSED NORTH STREET/OAK STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSION

Mr. Garland said Councilman Segars asked that this be put back on the agenda. Councilman Segars said he's been contacted by some of the residents in the Oak Street/North Street section of the City and they would like to pursue getting the historic district designation in that section of town. She said they see a need and an advantage to have that designation. Mrs. Lisa Rock said the neighborhood brought this originally to the Historic Commission members and they went to the people and knocked on doors about joining or expanding the historic district. She said there were several areas in the State study (areas in town) that showed some areas that could be expanded if they chose. She said based on the areas in the survey is where

the historic commission went door-to-door and talked to the folks in that area. She said of those areas, this is the area that they felt the neighbors were most immutable to this. She said when these homeowners get this district designation any exterior improvements will go to the historic commission if they are going to be outside the realm of changing the historic character. Mrs. Rock said they will also help these folks get listed on the State National Register. She said once they get on the State National Register that opens them up to being able to get a tax credit of up to 20% if you are going to spend more than $15,000 on your home. Mrs. Rock told Council this was brought to them before and to move forward they will have to send out certified letters, give a 30-day notice period and then they will present an ordinance format at a later date. Councilman Bryant Gardner said he has no problem with us expanding the historic district. He said he hopes the Historic District made a good faith effort in reaching out to these homeowners to discuss it with them. He said he doesn't want to put an undue burden on these families without discussing it with them. Mrs. Rock said the only person that has not been contacted is Aegis Enterprises because it is a rental property, but they will get a certified letter that will go directly to the owner of the property. Councilwoman Elaine Reed asked Mrs. Rock about the parsonage for her church and when she approached the administrative board, they had been contacted. Mrs. Rock said they will be getting a certified letter. Mayor Hines asked, "What if they don't want to participate in it"? Mrs. Rock asked Councilwoman Reed if they want to be a part of it and Councilwoman Reed said they only communication they had was when she went back to find out if they had any communication. Mrs. Rock asked if someone is staying in the house. Councilwoman Reed said the Pastor's home is in Greenville, so he wasn't there all the time. Mrs. Rock said that may be how they missed him. Mrs. Rock asked Councilwoman Reed for the name of the person she needs to contact concerning the parsonage so she can talk with them. Councilman Milling said Mayor Hines had a question of if there is an "opt out" provision for a homeowner who would be within the area that's been drawn, and Mrs. Rock said only if Council excluded it from that ordinance. Mrs. Rock said whatever ordinance they present to council (it will list the properties) they will have to take it out of there. Mayor Hines said she doesn't have a problem with it as long as everybody is on board with it. Mrs. Rock said they have not started the official legal process yet, but they wanted to make sure Council was informed of the situation and on board before they went through the trouble.

D) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-06 BULKY REFUSE FEE AND ORDINANCE

Mrs. Karen Carroll said there's been a proposal to change the ordinance on bulky refuse. She said the current ordinance says we do not pick up furniture, refrigerators, etc. on a regular basis. She said the proposed change says that the City will pick up appliances such as, but not limited to, refrigerators, ranges, water heaters, freezers, dishwashers, trash compacters, washers, dryers, air conditioners and commercial large appliances. She said the city will pick up furniture or household items placed by residents on a reasonable basis. Residents may not place more than one appliance or piece of furniture per month for pickup. Placement of more than one item per month will result in an additional charge based on the proposed fee schedule. All bulky refuse items should be placed outside the day before pickup. Any bulky refuse items not approved for pickup shall be removed by owner with 72 hours. All apartment complexes shall have a container for tenants to dispose of bulky refuse. Mrs. Carroll said that was the proposed change and after reading it, she said we should not pick all of this up because it practically leaves nothing outside that we would not pick up. She said it would be an extreme burden on the two new cherry pickers to start picking up all of this stuff. She said it's opening the door for an enormous amount of refuse to be put out. Mrs. Carroll said at the present we are trying to control the picking up of the furniture. She said when someone puts furniture out, it seems as though it's repeat offenders in the same location, but in the last couple of months it has gotten better. She said they are working with Codes Enforcement and if the guys see furniture or whatever on the side of the road, they contact Codes Enforcement and they send them a letter that they need to remove it because we do not pick that up. She said it's in the ordinance that we don't, and we should let that stand. Mrs. Carroll said the change to the ordinance should plainly read: when the City is forced to removed unauthorized refuse, there will be a fee assessed to the next water bill and the collection fees should be deposited into street department's capital fund. She said that would help them build that fund up for replacement of equipment and vehicles for that department. The proposed fee schedule is as follows: 1-5 items placed on the road - $5.00 each item; 5-10 items - $50.00; Anything over 10 items - $100.00 and overly excessive would be assessed accordingly. Councilwoman Reed asked Mrs. Carroll when she would determine her course and Mrs. Carroll said when the occupant hasn't removed it. She said the original says 72 hours. Councilwoman Reed said, "so that means you're monitoring it"? Mrs. Carroll said, "We're monitoring it now". Councilwoman Reed said, "If

something is out there over a 3-day period, then that's when you would pick it up and assess the fee to the water bill"? Mrs. Carroll said, "Yes". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Within the last one to two months we've cleaned up a lot of the furniture and things out of the City, and if you're proposing that we change the ordinance that's going to say we're not going to pick up any furniture, to me that's going to push the citizens to go back to dumping on empty lots". Councilwoman Baccus said her perspective is if you can't do one piece per month, then they are going to go back to putting furniture on empty lots so now you're going to send a letter to someone who didn't put it there at all because you don't know who put in on the empty lot. Councilman Gardner said he's assuming in that situation that we'll use some smarts; if there's one house and there's an empty lot across the street the we can probably assume it came from the house across the street. Councilwoman Baccus said we can't assume. Councilman Gardner said he understands that but if we can't prove it then we can't send the fine anywhere. Councilman said he has an interest in the fee schedule. He said the 1-5 item charge should be $10.00 each instead of $5.00 each and then have a cumulative of 20 items. Councilman Segars said he thinks we need to raise the fee much higher than that as a deterrent. He said $5.00 or $10.00 is nothing. He said think about what the landfill charges will be when we start hauling this stuff to the landfill. Councilman Segars said we need to put $25,00-$50.00 per item on there so that these people will think twice before they put it on the street. Mrs. Carroll said she agrees, she just put these fees in there to raise interest. Mrs. Carroll said her proposal is to leave it where it says: We do not pick this up. She said don't change it to say we're picking up one or whatever' don't even open that door. Mrs. Carroll said we are going to have cases where we are going to wind up picking it up, on a lot that we can't prove who put it there. Mayor Hines asked Council if they want to vote on this tonight. Councilwomen Baccus and Bruce said we need to make some adjustments on this. Councilman Gardner said we can do the first reading and then change it. Mr. Garland said not if we have a fee involved. Mrs. Carroll asked Council that they not carry this for another year. Mayor Hines said they won't; they need more discussion on this. Councilman Milling said, "If you will, don't use the word *overly excessive* and *assess fee accordingly*. He said if you have determined doing it more than five times a month, then put something in there that says if you do it five times a month you will be assessed a fee of $500.00 a month. Councilman Milling said, "Just give them the real notice.". Mrs. Carroll said and devise a method of communication to let people get the knowledge of what's getting ready to happen. Councilwoman Baccus asked what will

be the turn around time for removing furniture from an empty lot? Mr. Garland said how about 72 hours or 3 days. Mayor Hines told Council if they are not going to vote on this tonight they need to close it out and move on.

E) BID APPROVAL – VIRGIL WELLS STADIUM – BRANTLEY JETT

Mr. Brantley Jett said as far as getting the football fields "play ready" they called several contractors and they came and looked at the project, but many didn't do masonry work. He said some contractors were supposed to come and didn't. He said Roosevelt Scott gave a quote of $22,000 for the brick work and since no other contractors submitted quotes, they accepted Roosevelt Scott. Mr. Jett said the second phase is the goal posts. He said they have goal posts at Welch Stadium, but they have been there about 50 years. He said it would cost as much to get it moved as it would for him to build new ones. Mr. Jett said it costs approximately $3,000 to move the goal posts. They were given a quote of approximately $5,000 to build new ones. He said they will meet certain specs for high school and wind resistant specs. He said the bleachers at Welch Stadium has to be disassembled and reassembled once moved. Mr. Jett said we only have five workers and it would be too time consuming for them to break down all of the bleachers (because the guy said he would have to cut some of bolts off and replace them). Mr. Jett said he was given a quote of $3,800 to disassemble, move and reassemble at Virgil Wells Stadium. He said the last item is the scoreboard. Mr. Jett said he talked to Pepsi about six months ago when they did the concession stand and they gave them a new scoreboard and that saved us about $6,000. He said they have already delivered the scoreboard to them and they have it in the warehouse. Mr. Jett said the same guy that's going to move the bleachers gave him a quote of approximately $1,000 to hang the scoreboard. He said they just received another quote today for $850 for the wiring. Mr. Jett said they have a contract with one of the semi pro football teams and their first game is August 4th. Mr. Jett said he talked with all of the contractors and they will have all of this done before August 4th of Council approves it. He said they are moving the football over there this year. Mr. Jett said we are looking at approximately $33,000 to get the football stadium ready. Mr. Garland told Council to go ahead and get Virgil Wells Football voted on. **Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed to accept bid proposal of $32,525 for Virgil Wells Stadium, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, which unanimously carried.** Mr. Jett said the next phase is the playground. He said they just received a quote

today for the tennis courts and the reason why it is so high is they have to remove it and rebuild another one. The quote for this came in at $95,000. Councilwoman Reed said there were several people that indicated they wanted the tennis courts and she knows it's extremely high but asked that Council please consider this Mr. Jett said it's two separate courts. Councilman Segars asked if there is a need for two more tennis courts. Councilwoman Reed said, "There may not, but it's just those in that area"……Councilman Gardner said the agenda item "f" for the city tennis courts he said he understands the bid did come in a little high and assume that we're taking the tennis court information of $95,000 for information as long as the playground quotes for information since they are not listed as an agenda item. Councilman Gardner offer that Mr. Garland maybe can look at a couple more companies to see if he can get some more quotes. Mr. Garland said he has not had time to do due diligence on the $95,000. He said the work and experience he has had has been to repair cracks and not to replace it completely so he can't vouch as to whether it's high or low. Mayor Hines asked which tennis court they are referring to and they said the one on Magnolia Street. Mr. Jett said the quote he received for the playground is $44,815 for all of the playground equipment. Mr. Jett said that's for a turnkey job. Mr. Jett said this is across from the Virgil Wells football field. Councilman Segars asked Brantley what was on the ground and he said it's similar to sawdust or a soft mulch. Brantley said he talked with Lee Andrews this morning about the quote for Hampton Street and it came in at $193,973. Mr. Jett said some of the things can be added or deleted. He told Council they can pick and choose what they want. Mr. Jett said the second part was the water park/splashpad – one quote came in at $77,000 which has more seating and more water features; and the other quote came in at $65,000. Mr. Garland said we're still waiting on the quote on the baseball/softball fields and if council want to have a work session on everything together, they can do that.

F) BID APPROVAL – TENNIS COURT REPAIR

Mayor Hines said whatever the total cost is, the school district will pay half. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed to approve the bid for tennis court repair at $18,750, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner, which unanimously carried.**

G) BOARDS/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Rock said there are several openings on the various boards. She said there's one seat and one alternate on the Planning Commission. Councilman

Milling nominated Mr. Howard Nettles and Ms. Letha Martin asked to be appointed to the board and Councilwoman Baccus nominated Ms. Rosalind Green; however, there are only two seats available. **Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner to appoint Mr. Howard Nettle to the Planning Commission, which unanimously carried. Upon motion of Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, seconded by Councilman John Milling to appoint Ms. Rosalind Green to the Planning Commission, which unanimously carried**. Mrs. Rock said they have one seat available on the Beautification Board, but two people have applied for this seat. She said there are a couple of people who have not attended Beautification Board meetings, so Council can approve both, Ms. Letha Martin and Ms. Gladys Jules. **Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce to appoint Ms. Letha Martin to the Beautification Board, which unanimously carried. Upon motion of Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce to appoint Ms. Gladys Jules to the Beautification Board, which unanimously carried.**

H) POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS – CHIEF KELVIN WASHINGTON

Chief Washington said he's been here about four months and he took a look at how the office was restructured and decided to do some restructuring and reorganizing and as a result of that several members of the department are receiving well deserved promotions. He said next Monday evening July 16th at 6:30 they will have their first promotion ceremony. Chief Washington said on August 7, 2018 is National Night Out. He said it's annual community building campaign that promotes police community partnerships and neighborhood comraderies. He said it's celebrated all over the country, but this is the first opportunity for us to celebrate here locally. He said it will be held at Liberty Lane and Pearl Streets. Chief Washington asked Council to be in attendance. He said they are inviting the entire community. It gives the police and the community and opportunity to come together in a positive setting and have what he hopes we will have a night of little to no crime in Darlington. Chief Washington said they will begin at 4:00 PM and end at 7:00. Council meeting begins at 6:30 PM so hopefully they get a chance to come.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Hines thanked Mr. Curtis Boyd for sponsoring to have work done in the median in front of Mitchell Josey funeral Home.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed said she didn't want the vote for the City Manager to go like it did. She said she really wants to support him and keep him, but it was a thing that they wanted a work session prior to voting on the contract. She said she wants him to know as well as the residents that our Council is in support of our City Manager at this time for the kinds of things that he's doing. Councilwoman Reed said there are some things she would have liked to have done prior to the vote that went on. Mayor Hines said she feels the same way. She said certain things they wanted to put in place. Councilman Gardner said he and Councilman Milling discussed them doing a work session on the City Manager and the role the Council has with him and the role he has for the City. He asked that Council work on getting that work session put together. Councilman Gardner said once we have all the final numbers on the recreation equipment for all the different properties we have he would like to have a work session for that as well.

REMINDERS

Thursday – Sunday, July 19 – 22, 2018 MASC Annual Meeting in Hilton Head Island, SC.
Thursday, July 26, 2018 at 6:00 PM City Council Work Session
Tuesday August 7, 2018 at 6:30 PM – Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

_____
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY -AUGUST 7, 2018

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Ms. Rhonda Brown, Mrs. Laura Burns, Mr. David Brown, Ms. Angie Campbell, Mr. Winfred & Mrs. Brenda Herrington, Mr. Steve Abbott, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Mr. Lee Andrews, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning News.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Sheila Baccus did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, to approve the Minutes of July 10, 2018. Councilman Milling asked about the special meeting held on July 10, 2018 at 6:00 PM before the regular Council meeting. Councilman Milling said he would make a motion that they amend the agenda to vote not only for the regular minutes because they are not differentiated, but to approve the minutes of the special meeting and the minutes of the 6:30 PM meeting. Mayor Hines said a motion has already been made and seconded, so they will go ahead and vote on the regular meeting. **All approved the motion. Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting on July 10, 2018. Councilman Segars seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said Medic of South Carolina and the DDRA will present a community karaoke party with S&T Entertainment this Thursday at Liberty Lane & Pearl Street as part of the Bringing Downtown Alive Series. Radio Vibe will be playing for the final concert of the season on Friday August 31st with the Rotary Club of Darlington staffing these events. Mrs. Rock extended special thanks to Fast Track Convenience Store, Pepsi of Florence, Wilson Senior Care and the Darlington Rescue Squad. She said Papa John's pizza will be on site selling pizza by the slice along with Mike's Italian Ice and C&C Ribs and BBQ. She said she just got another vendor who will be doing fried Oreos. Mrs. Rock said anyone interested in helping with the concerts and events should contact her office. She said the next committee meeting will be August 16, 2018, 6:00 PM at Mamma Mia's. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA invites businesses to network and learn about their programs and give feedback for future projects at their monthly members breakfast. The next monthly breakfast for members is 8:00 AM Wednesday August 29, 2018 at Takis Diner. Breakfast will be provided for member businesses at no charge and a small donation of $5.00 towards the meal for nonmember businesses. Those meetings will continue monthly through October on the last Wednesday of the month. She said to bring a business card for a chance to win tickets to the Southern 500 race in September. The DDRA still has funds available for improvement incentive program. The 50/50 matching grant of up to $1,000 can go towards façade improvements such as a fresh coat of paint, or repairs to the front entrance or adding new awnings or signage. The grant application is available on the City website at buildupdarlington.org or from her office. Mrs. Rock said after tonight's meeting they encourage folks to "Eat for Change" at Papa John's in Darlington. She said 10% of sales from yesterday, today and tomorrow will be going towards the DDRA as part of a quarterly promotion by the new owners to give back to the community and grow our local economy by investing in downtown.

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

Ms. Hobbs said this year's Freedom Fest was their most well attended event and they had a record breaking crowd. Ms. Hobbs said if anyone has any constructive criticism, comments or tips they would love to hear them. Ms. Hobbs said Darlington's biggest tailgate will be September 6, 2018. She said she has spoken with all the coaches and it will be on the Square again.

She said it will be a little different this year and it will be done on a week they don't have a football game. She said the coach has committed the football players, the marching band, and the cheerleaders so they will have a huge pep rally. Ms. Hobbs said they are still collecting can goods for the Lord Cares. She said Coach Jordan will give a 10-minute talk on concussion protocol. Ms. Hobbs said the chamber is partnering with the Athletic Department at Darlington High for homecoming weekend (Thursday, September 27, 2018) so she got together with Coach Jordan the other coaches and they will have a big pep rally. She said at the biggest tailgate the Alumni Association is discussing doing a bar-b-que dinner to raise money for the athletic department. The Toast of Darlington is scheduled for Thursday, October 4, 2018 on Oak Street. Ms. Hobbs said if anybody would like to cook for the event, give her a call. She said there will be a "Lunch & Learn" at South of Pearl on Thursday, August 23, 2018 which is being put on by King Horn Insurance and BlueCross BlueShield. Ms. Hobbs said BCBS and King Horn wants to dump some money into our town. She said they want to do BCBS plans through the Chamber. She said she knows the City has BlueCross, but if you're not doing it through the Chamber she can save us money. Ms. Hobbs said they have got better plans, better premiums and better bundles. She said they can take our plan over without having to do any more paperwork. Mayor Hines asked Ms. Hobbs about the time and she said 12 noon.

KEY TO CITY/PROCLAMATION – MS. MAGGIE SAMUEL HICKS

Mayor Hines read the proclamation to be presented to Ms. Maggie Samuel Hicks who was born June 26, 1917, (101 years old) the 11th child of Mr. & Mrs. Washington Samuel proclaiming August 7, 2018 as Maggie Samuel Hicks Day in Darlington, SC. Mayor Hines presented Ms. Hicks with a Key to the City of Darlington" and a picture was taken along with several family members. Ms. Hicks thanked the City for recognizing her. She said she's been around the town all her days. She said she knows the Lord blessed her because sometimes it was hard. She went to school at Mayo and she had to walk about six miles to get to school. She said through all of that the Lord made a way for her. She said she didn't drink, she didn't smoke, and she ate that old-time food and that's what helped her to be here today. She tried to live a life that God would be pleased with. Ms. Hicks said her husband died in 1964 and she wondered how she was going to make it, but then she said there's a God somewhere. Ms. Hicks said, "my kids didn't go hungry and they might not have had everything they wanted, but right now I believe I like some of that back-time stuff better than I do this going on now.

She said to look to the Lord, tell Him what you want, tell Him what you need and try to live and tend to your business and you will make it. Ms. Hicks said she didn't think she would be here, but the Master saw different. She asked everybody to pray for her because we need prayer, we need to get together, and we need to love one another, and the Lord will make a way for us. Ms. Hicks again thanked Council for recognizing. Ms. Hicks said to pray for her and she'll do the same for us. Ms. Hicks received a standing ovation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) CITY COUNCIL SET DATES FOR WORK SESSIONS VARIOUS TOPICS

Council discussed what day would be best for the work session. Council decided to have the work session on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

B) BID APPROVAL – VIRGIL WELLS STADIUM IMPROVEMENTS – MR. LEE ANDREWS

Mr. Andrews told Council they have a bid for painting of the walls at Virgil Wells Stadium which came in at $5,200 from Mr. Roosevelt Scott. Mr. Andrews said he is waiting on Darlington Metal Buildings to give him a price on a 20 x 20-bathroom building. He said the plan is to build a metal bathroom and take the existing bathroom that they have, tear down the middle wall and use it for a storage building. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Andrews if they have a sound system set up and he said, "No, everything they are using at both stadiums right now is portable". Mr. Garland asked if everything will be ready for Mayo Alumni and Mr. Andrews said, "Yes". Mr. Garland asked if we want to have some type of ceremony when we open the stadium. Mr. Andrews said that will be a good idea. He said the opening day for football is September 8, 2018. **Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the bid of $5,200 from Mr. Roosevelt Scott to paint the stadium walls at Virgil Wells Stadium. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

NEW BUSINESS

B) MISSION SERVE – MS. ANGIE CAMPBELL

Ms. Campbell and Mrs. Laura Burns, both members of Central Baptist Church, appeared before Council to present Mission Serve to Council in preparation for 2020. Ms. Campbell said about fourteen years ago Central

Baptist Church started going on mission youth trips through World Changers or Mission Served. She said they have been all over the Southeast for the last fourteen years. Ms. Campbell said the week includes youth from sixth grade and higher going into cities that host them to do work on homes. Ms. Campbell said they do general construction, painting, roofing or basically whatever needs to be done that they have a construction team to do except plumbing and electrical. She said during the day the children work on the homes, they meet the homeowners, they witness to the homeowners, they walk through the neighborhoods to get to know the people there. Ms. Campbell said this also brings opportunities for home Vacation Bible School, like a head start program where the children will go in for the week and present crafts and programs. She said the week also involves a nightly worship and then everyone goes home to their different destinations. Ms. Campbell said Central Baptist went to Washington, DC for a week and it was an eye-opening experience for the forty-six people that went from Darlington. She said they were able to show the kids things they had not seen before. She said it's been her dream for several years now to bring Mission Served to Darlington and is asking Council to put Mission Served in the budget for 2020. She said this will be a weeklong event in either June or July depending on when Mission Serve will be able to come here. Ms. Campbell said they will have students from all over the Southeast. It will be sponsored at Central Baptist Church because it is large enough to house everybody and lunches and food will be provided by local churches. Ms. Campbell said she is confident that she has support of enough churches to feed the students while they are here. She said once she tells Mission Served that the city is behind them they will work with the City Manager on how to come up with the homes and how to come up with the projects. Councilman Gardner asked Ms. Campbell how much funds is she asking the City for. Ms. Campbell said $10,000 and this pays for supplies only. She said Mission Serve said she would need up to $20,000, but if she can get $10,000 from the City she will figure out a way to get $10,000 more. Mr. Garland asked Ms. Campbell if they would take donations of building supplies also and she said, "Yes". She said they have several people that have construction companies that they donate things to them. Mr. Garland told Ms. Campbell to give Council an idea of how many homes she thinks they will be able to do and Ms. Campbell said thirteen to fifteen homes. She said on the last project in Washington, DC they were able to do fourteen homes and three mission sites with approximately 160 students working on the projects (usually 8-10 students on a project with 2 adults). Mayor Hines asked Ms. Campbell again about the housing at Central Baptist Church. She

said they already have a commitment from Pastor Tim Coker because they have a large enough worship center and activity building and enough floor space for everybody to sleep because they sleep on air mattresses. She said worship every night is open to everybody, but on the last night Council will be invited to the last night of worship and recognize the students for the work they have done. Ms. Campbell said the homeowners or whomever would apply for the help and the construction committee would decide which projects were picked and backup projects in case they get into something they can't fix. She said they would visit with the homeowners and get permission from them and show up to their site every day. Mayor Hines asked her how long they would be here, and Ms. Campbell said it would start on Saturday and leave on Saturday. Councilwoman Bruce asked if the presentation tonight was for information only? Mr. Garland said, "Yes", he just wanted Council to be aware of this when Council does their budget planning.

C) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-15 SALE OF LOCHEND ROAD TO AUDDIE BROWN FOR $5,000

Mayor Hines said Mr. Brown has been constantly calling her so he finally sent her a letter. Mr. Brown's son attended the meeting for him since he was unable to come. Mr. Brown said he's not sure he can answer all their questions, but if he doesn't know the answer, he won't guess. Mayor Hines said when this came up before the main thing was concern about closing off the road. Mr. Brown said they are not closing off the road, but it is getting to a point that their customers can't get through. He said they all have to come through that road to get to them and it is blocking their customers from getting to them and so it's becoming more and more of an issue because the potholes have gotten extremely deep. Mayor Hines said she is in favor of having first reading tonight because it is a city owned street and we don't have any money in the budget to fix it. She said the only concern Council has is that the citizens are not blocked. Mr. Brown said, "We don't want them blocked either, we need them to get to us and that's the only way they can come in is through there or the road all the way down by the lumber yard". Mayor Hines said there are some deep holes on that road. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Brown if he would have any problem working with the City Manager and the City Attorney because these things are somewhat complicated. He said we've got the authority to deed property and decide what roads to close, but we've also got the State statute that talks about how you go about abandoning a road and there probably needs to be an agreement as to what he understands maintenance to be and what the City

understands "maintenance to be". Councilman Milling told Mr. Brown if the property is deeded to him the City needs to have some kind of language in an agreement that is filed with the deed or in the deed itself (some sort of reverter clause). Mayor Hines said the lawyer will draw that up. Mr. Brown said they fully agree with that. He said they have gotten bids in for asphalting the area but filling those holes must be done right away for them. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-15 relating to the sale of Lochend Road to Auddie Brown for one of its entities whatever turns out to be the best way for the sum of $5,000 pending the ability to work out all of these agreements. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

D) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-16 REGULATION FOR SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES

Mr. Garland gave Council a copy of a model ordinance from Municipal Association of South Carolina which goes into great detail to make sure that smaller towns that will be getting small wireless facilities are covered when large companies like AT&T or Verizon comes in wanting to be in these facilities. Mr. Garland said a small wireless facility is something that will go on top of a utility pole to boost or enhance a signal for internet or cellular phone service in an area that's underserved. He said Verizon came to the City in 2015 and asked about putting up some of these small wireless facilities in our town and all this ordinance does is set in place some type of structure for them to work with that's fair to us and the wireless companies. Mr. Garland said we currently have a contract with Verizon where they have a cellular signal on top of our N. Main water tank, but this in no way affects that deal. Mr. Garland said this would help boost the Wi-Fi/cellular signal in underserved neighborhoods. Councilman Milling said on Page 6-Item C (he read a portion of this). He said he wants something in the ordinance that says, if we get sued that they will cover the cost of defending us on a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) application. Mayor Hines asked Attorney Kevin Etheridge if he had a chance to look over the ordinance and he said, "Yes, but not to the depth Councilman Milling is talking about". Mayor Hines said with that being said we need to hold off on it. Councilman Milling and Mayor Hines both said we can have first reading. Attorney Etheridge said the language Councilman Milling is talking about would be very easy to put in there. Councilman Milling said the other question he had was about the annual fee on Page 15 (8A). He said it states they will pay the City $50.00 or $200.00 and he doesn't know whether that's a reasonable rate

because he doesn't know how much they are making, He said we charge a percentage for franchise fees and we charge for business licenses based on their revenue. He said he doesn't know whether or not it would be appropriate to take a look at how we're going to collect the renewal fee and whether it will be a percentage or something like a business license. Mr. Garland said it could be rolled into the franchise fees that MASC collects for us and then reimburse us every June. Mr. Garland said most of the language in the ordinance was written with consultation of AT&T, Verizon and MASC so the dollar amount was what they had agreed to. Mayor Hines said she thinks $50.00 is too little to charge. Mayor Hines asked how many poles are involved and Mr. Garland said a lot of the utility poles are owned by Duke Energy, but there are some that are on our property that we would be entitled to get money from. Mr. Garland said the fees that would be charged would go to Duke Energy unless it was something that the City owns. Mayor Hines asked how many poles the City owns, and Mr. Garland said we have poles on City Lane, the walkway between Carolina Bank Plaza and Vaughan Insurance, but the remainder of the poles that are on the Square we lease from Duke Energy. Mayor Hines said we don't have that many poles, so we wouldn't make that much money off if it. She said we will study this some more, but we can go ahead and have first reading tonight. Councilman Gardner said if we're going to make any adjustments to the fee structure, we can't have first reading tonight. Mr. Garland said he believes what Councilman Gardner said was true. Mayor Hines said we need to find out how many poles we have. Councilman Milling asked if there was some way we could make money off of this. Mr. Garland said probably no more than $2,000-$3,000 a year. Mayor Hines said it might not seem like a lot, but if it will help the citizens. Mr. Garland said they can go ahead and put this out, get it done, then it's a service. He said he'll be glad to get a count on what we own, but we need to have something in place because whether they like it or not, the change is coming. Mr. Garland said he will be glad to check on the fees and see what other towns are doing but MASC put this out for a reason.

He said he would also like to see something done this calendar year and not put it off until later. Councilman Gardner asked if they should bring it back next month and see what surrounding communities are doing from the fee structure side. Council agreed to bring the subject up next month after Mr. Garland find out how many poles we have and if they will change the fee.

E) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-17 - HABITUAL OFFENDER ORDINANCE – MR. ALEX GAINEY

Mr. Gainey did a PowerPoint presentation for the Habitual Offender Ordinance. He said he is proposing the Habitual Offender Ordinance for trash debris and overgrown lots and he's added the Bulky Refuse of Multifamily Properties. Mr. Gainey said within the last 24 months, they've sent out over 300 letters to offenders for violations of overgrown properties. He said we have property owners in the City that own multiple pieces of property and they send them letters, but we're not getting anywhere with that. He said they send the property owner a letter, they cut the property and two or three months later they get complaints and send them another letter. He said property owners are waiting on the City to tell them when to cut the lots. Mr. Gainey said they are trying to put an ordinance in place, so they can start holding some people's feet to the fire. He said for the 1st offense they would get notification either by certified mail or he will hand deliver it. For the 2nd offense and each offense thereafter in a calendar year, they will be fined $500.00. He said they can pay the fine prior to coming to court or they can come to court and pay it then. If they don't pay the fine and don't come to court, then they can be tried in their absence and a bench warrant will be issued. Mr. Gainey said they added the multifamily bulky refuse ordinance. He said he talked to a property manager here in town and he thinks a lot of the problems we're having for furniture being put beside the road is coming from some apartments. He said he would like to put in place where property owners have to offer some kind of container for the tenants in these apartments to start putting furniture, etc. in. Mr. Gainey said he's bringing this to Council tonight for first reading to see if we can get relief on this issue, so we can stop sending out all these letters. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Gainey how many habitual offenders we have, and he said maybe 50-100. Mr. Garland said Housing Authority has already agreed to get some containers and put them behind Bowens Manor (as well as cameras) and start helping us patrol that area so we don't have as many chairs, couches, debris, etc. He said if we can get the cooperation of the other apartment complexes it will help a lot. Councilman Segars asked if apartment complexes are liable for what's put on the street and Mr. Gainey said we don't know who put the stuff out there but he's assuming it's coming from the apartments, but he can't pinpoint it 100%. Mr. Gainey said we're going to continue to have this problem a little around the City on vacant lots so that's why the Street & Sanitation Department needs to work on some ordinances. Mayor Hines asked if we need to put an ordinance in place for the apartments requiring them to put a roll out on the property and Mr. Gainey said, "Yes", Council needs to put an ordinance in place. Mayor Hines said, "We'll have an ordinance ready for Council to vote on".

Councilman Segars said once the property owner puts a roll out container there anybody can come by and throw any kind of refuse in it. Mr. Gainey said his recommendation would be to put it in a place where it can't be seen from the road. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion for First Reading on Ordinance 2018-17 Habitual Offender Ordinance. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

F) JOE LOUIS BLVD. LIFT STATION GRANT APPLCIATION APPROVAL

Mayor Hines said she got some information on that at the last minute. Mayor Hines said she was on Council when there was something done some time ago and she feels that this should be tabled because she doesn't want the City to get sued; it's a legal issue. Councilpersons Carolyn Bruce and Bryant Gardner asked the Mayor to elaborate on this. Councilman Gardner said Council was emailed minutes from a previous council meeting where they discussed the lady in question. He said in the meeting it specified certain grants, Councilman Gardner said the grants that are specified in there is not the grant they are going after today, so he don't know how they could correlate or how she could be in charge of all grants. Mr. Garland said the Joe Louis Lift Station grant is something council talked about in the budget planning session. Mr. Garland said they talked about how important the Joe Louis Lift Station is. He said he's been told by staff that it's in need of an upgrade. He said last week he had Ms. Jannie Lathan come and present an application for RIA to put in for Joe Louis Lift Station. He said the contract calls for Ms. Lathan charging the City a $3,000 fee; the grant administration would be 6% of the grant award and any additional services would be billed at a rate of $108.00 an hour. Mr. Garland said he told her that in a previous meeting he had with Mr. David Brown they offered to write the grant for free. He said he relayed the information to Ms. Lathan and relayed the information to the Mayor on yesterday. The grant is due September 10th, Mr. Garland said we have a current open grant with Southwest Darlington Storm water ($445,000) so if we're going to apply, it must be under economic development and can't be under the current grant we have open. Mr. Garland asked if they want to go with Lathan Consulting to write the grant or Davis & Brown. Councilman Gardner said from previous meeting minutes it looks like it was recommended that Ms. Lathan work with grant writing for CDBG or EDA funding grants. Mr. Garland said, "From 2011, that's correct". He said RIA was not in existence at that time. Councilman Gardner said, "So then she can't be in any way binded to representing us for

writing grants for RIA. Mr. Garland said, "Unless y'all approve it". Mayor Hines said on the last grant Ms. Lathan did such a good job. Mayor Hines said if it hadn't been for Ms. Lathan we wouldn't have gotten the grant. Councilman Gardner said, "I understand that". Mayor Hines said they had to go back to Columbia several times and there were some things that came up that would have blocked them if Ms. Lathan had not stepped in. Mayor Hines said with the grant being due September 10th she would prefer working with a proven record. Councilwoman Baccus said she has a concern because Ms. Lathan presented a contract in writing, but they have nothing from Davis & Brown; all we have is Mr. Garland saying they will do the work for free. Councilman Gardner said Mr. Brown is here today. Councilwoman Bruce asked Mr. Brown, "Why would you want to do this free for the City"? Mr. Brown said they have never charged for RIA grants. Mr. Brown said they have done three (3) grants for the City (one on N. Main Street; the 2nd application that Ms. Lathan helped them with, but they did not get that one and the 3rd was the storm drain grant and they worked with Ms. Lathan but didn't get the engineering. Mr. Brown said RIA grants are not that much trouble to get and administer. Councilwoman Baccus asked Mr. Brown how many grants he has written for the City at no charge and he said three. Councilwoman Bruce asked Mr. Brown if there is something he can put in writing stating he will do this particular grant again for free. Mayor Hines said there are other charges and that the application is about 3-4 pages long, but there are other things you have to do to put it together. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So what you're saying is you're only going to do the 2-page application for free, but the other attachments you're going to bill us for"? Mr. Brown said they will bill us for the engineering design and construction. Councilwoman Baccus asked if she could ask Ms. Lathan a question and Mayor Hines gave her the ok. Councilwoman Baccus asked Ms. Lathan if she would do the same 2 pages for free and Ms. Lathan said she would do the same 2 pages for free, in fact, it's actually 3 pages. Ms. Lathan said the grant application is not just 2 or 3 pages; those are the grant application forms. She said the grant application itself includes those forms, it includes narrative, it includes backup justifications and approval from Mayor, Council, and the City Manager; and it also includes preliminary engineering reports. Ms. Lathan said, "I think the record will clearly show that Davis & Brown had billed the City of Darlington when they filed RIA application for the preliminary engineering reports which is a part of the application". Ms. Lathan said they need to be clear that it's not a 2-page application, but it's a 3-page form that's part of the total application process. Ms. Lathan said, "There are narratives that has to be written as part of the

application and there's a preliminary engineering report and Mr. Brown is right, Lathan Consulting and Davis & Brown has partnered together". She said they have prepared a part of that package (preliminary engineering report). Ms. Lathan said she's done analysis, written narratives and she's proved what they have presented as part of the preliminary engineering report. She said there's a budgeting component to that and several other components. Councilwoman Bruce asked what is the "free" part they are talking about? Mr. Brown said that's the 3-page application. Mr. Brown said they would not submit a PDR until they got the grant award. Councilwoman Brue asked what the $3,000 from Lathan Consulting is for? Ms. Lathan said the $3,000 which is a standard fee in the industry that's charged for putting this type of grant application together. The application itself includes a preliminary engineering report. It also includes a 3-page form that's being referred to as the application that SC RIA requires you to fill out. Ms. Lathan said with that 3-page form you have to put budget requirements; you have to develop a schedule; you have to explain in the narrative how you're going to bid this project out; she has to get a commitment letter from the City that's a part of the application process that says funds are readily available because it is a matching grant. Councilman Segars said, "Regardless of who files the application you still going to have to have engineering done on it". Ms. Lathan said, "Absolutely". Councilman Segars said, "Mr. Brown's organization is an engineering firm, and not only have they done that for the City of Darlington, but I'm sure they have done this for other municipalities in our area, so I think they are well accomplished to take on this kind of project and satisfy the need we have in the City of Darlington". Ms. Lathan said, "With due respect, so does Lathan Consulting". She said, "I have written such grants for the City of Dillon, for the Town of Cheraw and the Town of Andrews". She said she has clients who are municipalities in and outside the Pee Dee region. Ms. Lathan said her experience in writing and receiving these grants is quite notable. She said her clients have received every grant that she has submitted for them in full. Mr. David Brown said, "That's not true Jannie". He said they worked together on one for sewer and they didn't get it. Ms. Lathan told Mr. Brown that was somebody else because she didn't work with him. Councilwoman Baccus said what she's understanding is this is not free. Councilman Milling said what he doesn't understand at this point and time is some of the language in the administrative contract. He said it would be the responsibility of the City to reimburse Ms. Lathan on a cost reimbursement basis (actual cost incurred), but he doesn't know what they are talking about when they are talking about that. Councilman Milling said

he has a hard time voting to do something when he's not sure what the definition is for that. He said he thinks it would be good to have a workshop on the 15th and have Ms. Lathan and Mr. Brown make a presentation to them to help them better understand what they will be paying for and what they are going to get. Mayor Hines, Councilwoman Baccus and Councilman Gardner said the deadline is September 10th. Councilman Milling asked if this can be done between the 15th and September 10th. Ms. Lathan said it can be done, but it will be an aggressive schedule to do so. Ms. Lathan told Council they should be mindful of their fiduciary duties and their fiscal accountability if they consider awarding to one entity a contract to write a grant, then to do the grant administration and then to do the engineering on the same project and then to do the bidding out on the same project. She said one would find that it is not consistent with the City of Darlington's procurement policies and procedures. Ms. Lathan said we would not be exercising our best fiduciary duties or fiscal accountability when we award to one entity the contract to write a grant, whether we're paying them or not, to be the grant manager. Councilman Gardner said we have a timeline issue with this in waiting and it will risk us losing the grant. **Councilman Gardner made a motion that we move forward with this.** Councilwoman Baccus said she don't see how we can consider anything we don't have in writing. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Brown why he didn't have anything in writing? Mr. Brown said it was kind of a short fuse that he got this information on. Mayor Hines said she thought Ms. Lathan was going to do it and she didn't find out until yesterday that Davis & Brown was putting something in. Mr. Davis Brown said he didn't think there would be an issue with him not charging for it. Ms. Lathan said, "In response to a comment that Councilman Gardner made earlier in terms of the fact that in 2011 the previous Mayor and Council voted that Lathan Consulting would be writing grants, and as Howard correctly stated, RIA did not exist at that time so that was not to limit and not to include writing RIA grants. In fact, Lathan Consulting has just written a RIA grant for the City. So, to portray that as the reason to say this Council has not previously approved Lathan Consulting to do this type of infrastructure grant writing for them is misleading. Councilman Gardner was saying, "Point of order". Councilwoman Bruce said she wants to hear from the City Attorney because the Mayor said we may be at fault from a legal standpoint based on minutes from 7/5/2011 where Lathan Consulting was granted as the City grant writer for CDBG or EDA funding when RIA didn't exist. City Attorney Kevin Etheridge said you can interpret that several different ways. He said RIA was not in place in 2011. Mr. Etheridge said he doesn't know what was said

at that time. He said it's a very broad question and he wouldn't be able to give an answer. He said since RIA wasn't in place he assumes they intended all grants at that time. Councilwoman Bruce said she thinks they need to have a breakdown of what Lathan is charging and a breakdown of what Davis & Brown said is free, so she will be able to make an intelligent decision. Councilman Gardner told Ms. Lathan this is the second time she's essentially called him a liar. He said he's reading from the minutes where it states, "Mr. Garland recommended that Ms. Lathan work with grant writing for CDBG or EDA funding for storm water". Councilman Gardner said a lift station handles sewer and if we were going to say you're in charge of all grant writing, you would be in charge of storm water. Councilman Gardner said, "If you have a previous contract that gave you exclusive rights to all grant writing in the City of Darlington then you wouldn't have presented us with a new contract". Councilman Gardner said, I have serious reserves with moving forward on this with her seemingly lacking the ability to tell the whole truth". Mayor Hines said, "I don't see anything in my packet from Davis & Brown as top what they are going to do, and this is too big a project to vote on to put Davis & Brown in charge of it. Councilman Gardner said he's sure that if they can pass it tonight and Davis & Brown can have something in writing tomorrow. He said they can approve this like they did for Mr. Auddie Brown. Mayor Hines said that was something short and it can't be compared to this. Councilwoman Baccus said, "This is a new Council and it's a new day". She said, "That same old stuff from the past, is stuff from the past". "It's time for things to be clear and on the table". Councilwoman Baccus said just like Ms. Lathan presented them with a contract, Davis & Brown should have done the same thing. She said, "I don't care who your buddy is, I don't care who your friend is, this is business and they should have presented to us a contract or proposal as to what they can and cannot do". Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland how was the discussion held with Davis & Brown and Ms. Lathan about this? Mr. Garland said unbeknownst to him, in September 2017 Davis & Brown started working on a preliminary application to RIA for this project, but he stopped him about halfway through. He said he felt this was not a good time to do that because we had the storm water project application open. Mr. Garland said he told Mr. Brown to put it aside and they would look at it at a future date. He said he's had three conversations with Ms. Lathan and two with Mr. Brown. He said Council needs to consider if they have a work session and they both make presentations, you can't vote at a work session. He said you would have to come out and have a special meeting to vote. He said then you would have the compatibility of the engineering company with

the consulting company and if they both can work together, or do they go with another engineering company if Lathan Consulting gets the grants. Mr. Garland said would Davis & Brown work with Lathan Consulting. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Brown if he would work with Lathan Consulting and he said he would have to think about that. Councilman Segars said Mr. Brown's track record speaks for itself for probably 20 years or more. He said he has Ms. Haidee Stith on his staff who has written grants for us prior to Ms. Lathan coming on the scene. Councilman Segars said Ms. Stith is a very accomplished person and she can do any kind of grant work that we need done and she's on Mr. Brown's staff. He said everything has always gone smooth with the engineering Mr. Brown has done. Mr. Garland asked Council if they want to meet Thursday at 6:00 PM? The discussion was tabled until that time.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Milling asked if we are buying water from the County Water Authority and then reselling it to customers. Mr. Kinsaul said we have four ties to the County.

Councilman Milling wanted to know what's going on with Verizon and fiber cable at N. Main Street. Mr. Garland said they have to go down Seaboard Lane which is our road and they haven't put it out for permits to do that yet.

Councilman Milling asked about the sewer issues around Dixie Cup related to Phase 2. Mr. Kinsaul said there's a small amount of sewer in a storm drain that they have identified so far. Councilman Milling asked how is it related to Phase 2? Mr. Kinsaul said it's a cross connect on a pipe on that storm water project that's getting into one of the new catch basins.

REMINDERS

Tuesday August 21, 2018 – 11:00 AM– 1:00 PM, MASC Regional Advocacy Meeting

Tuesday September 5, 2018 (Should be Tuesday September 4, 2018) at 6:30 PM – Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

_____

Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY -AUGUST 15, 2018

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed and John Milling. Also, present: City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. David Brown, Mr.& Mrs. Roger Gore, Ms. Judy Alexander, Ms. Hannah Dixon, Mrs. Thelma Dawson, Mr. Coleman Cannon, Mr. James Jackson, Mr. Donald Gilliard, Mr. Willie Pearson, and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning News.

INVOCATION

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce did the invocation.

Mayor Hines said last Tuesday at the Council meeting we were in a discussion about a lift station on Joe Louis Blvd. and we needed more discussion on it. So tonight, we will talk about the Joe Louis Lift Station grant application approval. She said the discussion included Lathan Consulting Company and Davis & Brown. Mr. Garland gave a recap of the meeting. He said they had 4 or 5 budget meetings last spring and one night they presented water and sewer needs to their Mayor & Council. He said one of the items presented for 2018-2019 was the upgrade of the Joe Louis Lift Station. Mr. Garland said that station handles all of our sewer on the By-Pass. He said in the past we didn't have that much sewer on the By-Pass but with the additional fast food restaurants and Walmart, this lift station is key to our growth on the By-Pass. Mr. Garland said they mentioned to Council that they would like to upgrade the parts and machinery for the lift station, so everybody nodded in agreement at the meeting and seemed to think this was something that needed to be done. Mr. Garland said they

talked loosely among staff about putting in this application with S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (SC RIA). He said he had consultation with Ms. Jannie Lathan of Lathan Consulting Corporation and probably two weeks ago she presented him with an application for the RIA grant between the City of Darlington and Lathan Consulting Corporation. He said they had some preliminary talks about that and as we had done the RIA application which Ms. Lathan had done for the City of Darlington in 2016 & 2017, he told her he had to take it to Council to get it approved, which she agreed. He said they also talked briefly about engineering services for the project. He said our engineer for water & sewer is Davis & Brown and he spoke frankly with her about this. Mr. Garland said they weren't sure about Davis & Brown's willingness to work with Ms. Lathan. He said in the meeting last Tuesday when Mayor Hines asked Mr. Brown in open meeting if he would work with Ms. Lathan if she were awarded the RIA grant and he left it open-ended and said he was not sure. Mr. Garland said he talked with Davis & Brown about trying to mediate and build a bridge between the two and maybe handling the PER (Preliminary Engineering Report) and Mr. David Brown offered to do the application and the administration of the grant for free, so he brought this to Council and it was discussed last Tuesday night. He said Mr. Brown did not have any type of formal presentation which was brought up at the Council meeting and discussed at length. He said Council decided to reconvene this week to give Mr. Brown a chance to put together some type of proposal. And to be fair, he asked Ms. Lathan yesterday if she wanted to write a letter outlining what she has done for the City of Darlington and she hand delivered a letter to him this afternoon and he gave a copy to each of them. Mr. Garland said he will be glad to answer any questions as it relates to the work record of Lathan Consulting Corp. and the work record of Davis & Brown. He said if anybody asks him for an opinion about any of this he will be glad to give it, but as reminder, State law says the City Manager can discuss issues, but he doesn't have a vote. Mayor Hines told Mr. Garland when she talked to him Friday before last he didn't say anything about Davis & Brown and she only learned about it on Monday before the meeting and Mr. Garland said, "That is correct". Mayor Hines said Ms. Lathan had already submitted her contract in the packet so why didn't Davis & Brown submit something. Mr. Garland said Mr. Brown told him to his face that they would do it for free. Mr. Garland said it's his obligation to bring to Council information such as this. Mayor Hines told Mr. Brown since he didn't present last week she will let him present first. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Brown if he's seen the submission that Mr. Garland talked about (what Ms. Lathan prepared). Mr. Brown said he has

not. Councilman Milling said there were some bullet points made with respect to certain things that were alleged to have been said at the last meeting and in fairness he thinks Mr. Brown should at least see what it says. Councilwoman Baccus said even though Mr. Brown may or may not have seen Ms. Lathan's contract it was read out loud, open and in public. She said some Council members questioned her (Ms. Lathan's) numbers, her amounts so Mr. Brown heard what her contract said which gave him an opportunity to go back and create his contract based on what her contract said. She said this is a legal issue and should never have been read out loud. Mr. Brown said her (Ms. Lathan) contract is for the application and grant administration. Mr. Brown said he don't know how to say anything other than "free". Councilwoman Baccus said, "I'm looking at what you submitted to us and I still don't see "free". Mr. Brown said what he's submitting is the engineering cost. He said his offer is to do the grant application, the engineering and construction inspection. He said he is not going to charge for the grant application and administration. For the engineering and design, he will charge $28,200 and for construction inspection he will charge $18,000 which is based on him knowing that system, knowing his input and how much time he will have. Councilwoman Reed told Mr. Brown she was not at the last Council meeting, but her concern is since she has been on Council her experience with Davis & Brown has not been the best for the City of Darlington simply because he has been a consultant for a number of years. Mr. Brown said roughly thirty-five years. Councilwoman Reed said she thought that whatever he would propose would be most high level so that is why she is very apprehensive about the fact that he waited until now to present this proposal. She said, "As a consultant you would have known the condition". Councilwoman Reed said she is becoming keenly aware of the problems that we're having that's relative to the engineering work in Darlington. She said she didn't know it was going to be an issue that we already had a qualified person that has already proven that they can get the grants and administer it or do whatever needs to be done to get things done in Darlington. Councilwoman Reed asked Mr. Brown why he wants to do this for "free"? She said, "It's already costing us because you have waited late, and we had to offer you or make allowances for this company to come in with this". She said, "I do not understand why you treat the City this way when you have been that kind of consultant all these number of years". She said if this is something that you wanted, you would have come to this City Council meeting also prepared and when you made that offer of doing it for "free", it doesn't mean that it's always the best. Councilwoman Reed said, "You said you have been the

consultant for this City for thirty-five years and we are experiencing a lot of problems that deal with the services that you provide". She said, "We shouldn't be to this place that we're in competition and that you would say or indicate that you can't work with another one". Councilwoman Reed said, "Both of you have provided great services at times to this City and we are about going forward and we are at a point where we've got to fix these things. And to have companies that can't work together, who both are consultants with this City, makes me a little apprehensive about that". She said she would like to see a different attitude. Councilman Milling asked Councilwoman Reed what problems was she talking about with the engineering services"? Councilwoman Reed said when we had the grant that was offered in the State of South Carolina, only two were given. One was given to Darlington and submitted by Jannie Lathan/Lathan Consulting. Councilwoman Reed said when it was sent in, the design or whatever Davis & Brown's input was, the State said it was not sufficient and we almost lost the grant. Councilwoman Reed said, "Once they got that answer back and in order to maintain the grant, we had to have a panel to interview bids for the engineering companies to come up with a different one". Councilwoman Reed said Councilman Milling was on the panel. She said she was very critical because we had to redo that process because of what Davis & Brown submitted; the engineering company that has been the consultant for thirty-five years. Mr. Brown said, "First of all, you got the grant and then after getting the grant, you decided to go out for the engineering. He said they worked with Ms. Lathan on the grant and they got it. Davis & Brown said after they decided to go out for engineering, they submitted a bid but evidently, they did not make an adequate submittal, and they did not get the grant. Mr. Brown said your engineer said they could not do it like they had proposed it to be done. He said nobody came back to him and it was very late in the project (about 6 months) as he recalls. Mr. Garland said from his understanding Hanna Engineering said it was engineered from the middle but there was nothing from the beginning and nothing at the end. He said Hanna Engineering wanted to start at the beginning and go until the end of the project and that it was engineered in the middle. Mr. Garland said the contract was awarded to Hanna in June 2017, so it had to be sometime during the fall of 2017. He said Hanna Engineering pointed out that the design did not cover the entire area that was affected. He said if you just went in and worked on the Chalmers Street area, you're not really doing anything. He said you might be piping the ditch but you're not moving the affluent down where it needs to go. Mr. Brown said he disagrees with that, but nobody came back and asked him about it when it happened so there's

not much he can do about that. Councilman Milling said he was a part of it and as he recalls, Mr. Hanna started out just doing engineering and there was various proposal and recommendations were received from Ms. Lathan as to who should engineer it and other statements were made from people who were involved with the process about who should engineer it and Hanna got the contract. Councilman Milling said Mr. Hanna said he thinks it should be done in this fashion, but he didn't throw any stones at Davis & Brown based upon the information that was available. Councilman Milling said Mr. Hanna indicated that during his process of evaluating and looking at it after he had been awarded the contract, he wanted to expand it and make it a larger project. He said Mr. Hanna never said there was anything was wrong with the engineering. Councilman Milling said, "So I just don't know when we say we've got engineering problems from somebody who's done work for us for thirty-five years and we hadn't mentioned it to David so what somebody has said was a real problem, I don't see it as a problem". Mayor Hines said, "He said the design went up to the railroad and it stopped, it needed to go beyond the railroad". Mayor Hines told Mr. Brown he didn't say anything that was wrong about you. Mr. Brown said it depends on how much you want to drain. The more you want to drain the deeper the pipe is and the bigger the pipe. Councilwoman Bruce asked Mr. Brown if he has done work for the City before for free and did it pertain to grants? Mr. Brown said, "Yes". Mr. Brown said he doesn't like the word "free" even though he used it. Councilwoman Bruce said she will rephrase it. She asked Mr. Brown if he has written and administered a grant for the City of Darlington for free before and he said, "Yes". Councilwoman Bruce said her understanding is that is what he is proposing to do at this time; to write the grant and administer the grant. Councilwoman Bruce asked Mr. Brown if he is awarded this grant does he have engineers on staff to do this work and he said he has engineers on staff. She asked if those engineers have done work for Darlington before as it pertains to a lift station and he said, "Yes". Councilman Segars said, "Let's clarify something too-concerning Chalmers Street ditch. He said the ditch was not draining because we had a real dry spell there and nothing was moving, but every time we've had rain since then that ditch is draining, but maybe not as fast as we want it to, but it's draining. He said if memory serves him correctly, when we wrote the grant for the $400,000 to do the ditch you were doing the part of the ditch that people were complaining about where the odor was. He said you engineered it based on the size of what the grant was. He said water was still moving and if we would have piped the ditch and covered it up water still was going to move out of there, so there's no flaw in his engineering it's

just that somebody else decided they wanted to make a bigger scope out of the project. Councilman Segars said we're not a $400,000 we're pushing $3 million dollars now. He said Mr. Brown had the City's best interest when he was engineering what the grant was proposed for. Councilwoman Reed said she doesn't have knowledge of all that other stuff, she is dealing with the information that was brought to her. She said the information she received is that they did not accept what you proposed for this grant. Mr. Brown said he does think that is correct, but he was not there, but all he knows is that they had the grant and when they went out for engineers and did preliminary work and now it has changed. Councilman Reed said as a Councilperson when that came to her she felt like they needed to deal with it and the next thing that was set up was to open it up so that other companies would be able to submit. Mr. Brown said it wasn't' brought to you then. He said it was merely somebody that executed what their preliminary showed it to be at the point and it wasn't until later until that the project scope changed. Councilwoman Reed said, "If there was a chance to do what John has outlined to just address Chalmers Street, why didn't nobody accept that? She said they said, "No". Mr. Brown said you've got to trust the engineer that you select and if you hire an engineer and they say do something, that's what you need to do and that's what you did. Councilwoman Baccus said her concern is this-Mr. Garland submitted to them their packets on Thursday and there was only one application in it that pertained to Ms. Lathan. She asked Mr. Garland when did he decide that Davis & Brown was going to do it for "free"? Councilwoman Baccus said if Davis & Brown was going to be included in our meeting (because they were not a part of our agenda) why wasn't something submitted in their agenda pertaining to Davis & Brown? Mr. Garland said he thinks it was either Wednesday or Thursday of that week. Councilwoman Baccus said if it was Wednesday or Thursday of that week why wasn't it included in their packets. Mr. Garland said this was something that Mr. Brown told him to his face and not anything that was presented in writing. Councilwoman Baccus said she doesn't think it should be a consideration because it was not a part of their agenda. She said Ms. Lathan has done two applications for this Council and received them both (one for $500,000 and one for $444,870). So, she has the ability to write these grants and get the grants for the City. Councilwoman Baccus said when you send somebody to bid for something, you want to send the best and she's fighting for the best for her Ward. She said based on Ms. Lathan's reputation of getting these grants, to her, that's their best choice and the fact that she submitted her application to the City on time and when it was due, the grant should be awarded to the person who earned it.

Councilman Gardner said he was made aware that Ms. Lathan presented a contract in reference to this contract the week they got their Council packets and he was also made aware that Mr. Brown offered to do it for "free" during the same period. Councilman Gardner said contracts in the past haven't been such a touchy issue with them as a Council. He said we sold Auddie Brown our frontage road with no contract with the guidance that our lawyers and their lawyers will get together and we trust that they will come up with something that's best for the City and they were fine with that. Councilman Gardner said a couple of agenda items later they now have an issue with granting the project to Davis & Brown because they lack a contract. He said he has no problem going with either one. He trusts our lawyer, he trusts Davis & Brown and he trust our City Manager to do what's best for the City. He said in the future, if they want to go with contracts for all items, he's fine with that. He said what he doesn't like is when we have one rule for one thing and another rule for another and that's how he sees this tonight. Councilman Gardner said he doesn't doubt Ms. Lathan's ability to write a good grant and he doesn't doubt Mr. Brown's ability to write a good grant, but he has seen issues with one of their work that doesn't satisfy him. He said there have been outbursts within the Council meetings on multiple occasions that go against facts so that gives him serious reserves. Mayor Hines said as for Auddie Brown issue we must do two readings. She said we can't afford to repair or fix the street, so it's best that we sell it, but we gave it to the lawyer and if he brings something back saying that we can't do it, then we won't do it because we haven't had second reading. Mayor Hines said the best thing would be to try and help Mr. Auddie Brown get the street because he's going to pave it and he's not going to stop cars from coming through. She said if we already had second reading on it that would be different. Mayor Hines said if for some reason he can't acquire the street for that, then he won't get it. She said this is a different issue that we're talking about. She said this issue has been going on for over eight years and it needs to be fixed. Mayor Hines said if Davis & Brown had sent in their application at the same time, it would be a different thing, but they didn't do that. Mayor Hines said, "I've been on Council for about eighteen years and the time that I've been here when she was fresh on Council, in the Council meetings some nights it wouldn't even be on the agenda and they would come up behind you and say we've got to vote on this tonight; it's an emergency. She said, "We didn't have chance to read nothing; everything was given to you". She said at that time I guess you prepared the grants, you administered the grants, you did the engineering, you did everything. There was no check and balance. Mayor Hines said there was no procurement

done until last year when they voted on it. She said things were never bid out when she first got on Council. Mayor Hines said, "We always had to vote then when it pertained to something about you, you did it all". Councilman Milling said, "Madam Mayor we're dealing with at this point and time when two people who would like to make a proposal for the grant. Seems to me we're spending a lot of time expressing personal differences about how things have been done in the past. He said he would like to finish the discussion with Mr. Brown as to his contract, hear a presentation from Ms. Lathan on her contract and then he would like to have a vote. Councilman Milling said there was an attachment to On Point Services. Mr. Brown said he put that in there because Haidee Stith is their grant writer if they need one. He said Haidee has done a lot of work for the City and she's done some other work for them. Councilman Bruce asked Mr. Brown to tell her what was that that Councilman Milling presented to him before he started his presentation. Mr. Brown said it was a letter from Ms. Lathan which he has not looked at. Councilman Bruce said she thought it was her contract. Mr. Brown said, "No, it was not her contract, I don't think". A gentleman in the audience asked if it was public information (the letter) and Councilman Milling said he would think so. The gentleman said he would like to see a copy of it too. Mayor Hines called on Ms. Lathan to respond, but her Attorney Mr. Patrick McLaughlin from Wukela Law Firm spoke on her behalf. Mr. McLaughlin said Ms. Lathan has presented her contract to them so they don't feel the need for her to explain her contract. He said he don't personally know Mr. Brown, but he knows his firm and he knows the reputation to be a fine engineering firm. He said he understands that Darlington has history with both companies and that both companies have performed business satisfactorily because you are considering doing more business with both of them. Mr. McLauglin said as Council they know more about the procurement process and what their role is in that process more than he does. He said a primary role for them to consider is their fiduciary responsibility to the City. He said you can't get much lower of a price than "free". Mr. McLaughlin said he would like to stand up for Ms. Lathan at this time and point out that there are other factors that go into procurement and municipal government decisions about how to select contracts. Mr. McLaughlin said in additional to fiduciary responsibility Council has other concerns such as inclusion, such as diversity of the awarding of contracts and checks and balances sometimes. He said if certain Council members have concerns about the way some things have been handled in the past, perhaps is responsible and perhaps it is doing your due diligence to have another outfit administering the award. Mr. McLaughlin said he would hope

if there are any complaints about Ms. Lathan's work, considering the fact that she has not only in the past successfully obtained grants for the City of Darlington and administered those grants, and it's his understanding she continues to do that now. At least the administration role. He said if members of Council have concerns about anything in the way she's done her business, he would hope that that's what Mr. Garland is for. Mr. McLaughlin said to his knowledge this has not been done. Councilman Gardner started to ask Mr. McLaughlin a question, but Mayor Hines told him to wait until Mr. McLaughlin finish. Mr. McLaughlin said he doesn't have a problem entertaining a question Councilman Gardner would like to ask. Councilman Gardner said this is a statement for clarity. He said Ms. Lathan was in a work session with them and they asked her about her Master Storm Water Plan and it didn't include the whole City. Councilman Gardner said Ms. Lathan stated that it did, but they were not able to find where it included the whole City. Mayor Hines hit the gavel and said this is not about….Mr. McLaughlin asked Councilman Gardner if that a question about Ms. Lathan's administration of any of the grants and he said, "No". Mr. McLaughlin asked if this is a question about her obtaining any grants for the City of Darlington? Councilman Gardner said, "It's a question of, I think, whether we could believe that we are getting a truthful answer out of her because we have….(There were gasps from the audience) Councilman Gardner said when they discussed previously with her about storm water master plan that the City has that she performed for them, she said it was complete and she said it includes the whole City and they can't find where it includes anything on the other side…Mayor Hines hit the gavel and said this has nothing to do with that tonight. Councilman Gardner said it has to do with her ability to do the job that we hired her to do. Mayor Hines told Councilman Gardner to let Mr. McLaughlin finish and he can ask his question on the end. Councilman Gardner said Mr. McLaughlin said he would entertain his question, so he was just finishing it, so he can let him continue. Mr. McLaughlin said, "Councilman Gardner is it your assertion then that these are problems with her administration of grants that she obtained and administered for the City of Darlington"? Councilman Gardner said he would have to ask Councilman Milling for the legal jargon that he would need to use or either the City Attorney. Councilman Gardner said, "What I do know is there are a couple of different grants that she has administered that we've had a couple of different issues with in this City so that gives him reserves. Mr. McLaughlin said, "And your concern is with her administration of those grants"? Councilman Gardner asked Mr. Garland if Ms. Lathan administered the Renaissance Grant and Mr. Garland

said Phase 3. Councilman Gardner asked Mr. Garland if this was the grant where they had the dam in the middle of it where the water has to fill up to a certain level before it continues down. Mr. Garland said that was Phase 2. Council Gardner said, "So she did not administer Phase 2 and Mr. Garland said Phase 2 was administered by Pee Dee COG. Councilman Gardner said, "Then I do not have a problem with her administering that grant". I have an issue with Renaissance Phase 2, I guess". Mr. McLaughlin said, "Then again, I would come back to the fact that he would hope if the City had issues with someone they are currently in a contract with for providing for professional services, that those issues would be talked about with them". Mr. McLaughlin said Ms. Lathan's work speaks for itself. He said in casting your vote tonight that you don't just look at the fiduciary duty that you have, you also look at the duty you have to consider those other factors and also consider whether or not all the regulations and statutes regarding procurement have been followed. He said there was a little bit of concern (he was just retained recently so he hasn't had a chance to watch the video from that last meeting) because Ms. Lathan's contract was published in public and somebody else was able to submit a contract after having heard her information. He said he don't believe this Council has shared with Ms. Lathan Mr. Brown's contract. Mr. McLaughlin asked Council to consider all of those options when you vote on this grant. Councilwoman Bruce told Mr. McLaughlin that he alluded several times that Lathan Consulting has a contract with the City to do these grants and she asked Mr. Garland if that was correct that Ms. Lathan is our grant writer under contract? Councilwoman Bruce said she is trying to get clarity about the grant for the Joe Louis Lift Station. She wanted to know if Ms. Lathan is under contract to write the grant for the lift station and Mr. Garland said, "No". Mr. McLaughlin said if he indicated that he is sorry. Councilwoman Baccus said she understands that Councilwoman Bruce asked Mr. Brown if he would do the application free and the management free and he said, "yes". She said in the packet it has a breakdown of the fees charged. Mr. Brown said that's his standard rates and it refers to extra work in the contract if they need him to do work beyond the contract. Mr. Brown said he never said he would do the engineering free. Councilwoman Baccus said the contract she is reading, he is asking them to sign an engineering contract before they ever get the grant. She said instead of the engineering part of the contract being bid, if they sign that contract, they are saying they are just going to hand you the engineering part without ever knowing if we're going to get the grant or not. Mr. Brown said if you don't get the grant you don't owe me anything. Councilwoman Baccus said if we get the grant then we just committing to giving you the

engineering and Mr. Brown said, “That is correct”. She said what happen to bidding it out by law? Mr. Brown said they will bid out the construction. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Brown if his ethics and your billings have ever been questioned by the City in thirty-five years and Mr. Brown said, “Very seldom.” Councilpersons Reed and Baccus said, “and that’s the problem”. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Brown if anybody has ever penalized him in connection with the work you’ve done. Mr. Brown said, “No”. Mr. Brown said after you trust somebody you try to live up to that trust. He said the City doesn’t have to do that they can go out for proposals on every job if they want to. Councilwoman Reed said they haven’t done that and Mr. Brown said you haven’t done that but that’s not his fault. Mayor Hines said someone was sent here about 10 years ago and she was asked about the report and she said she never seen the report. She said that report never got in her hands. (Council were talking among themselves because they didn’t know what she was talking about). Mr. Garland said in 2006 Council agreed along with then City Manager, Mr. Rodney Langley to bring in a consultant who was the Assistant City Manager for the City of Columbia, Mr. Charles Williams. Mr. Garland said Mr. Charles Williams came in and spent about 5 or 6 months here and did a complete review of the Water & Sewer Department. He said the biggest issue that the found was we had more than $600,000 in uncollectible water bills and they were written off. He said staff would go about 3 to 5 months without collecting any water bills. Mr. Garland said Mr. Williams felt like Davis & Brown was doing too much work in too many areas for the City and we should cut our work load down with Davis & Brown. Mr. Garland said it was around $800,000 or $900,000 a year that Davis & Brown agreed to cut back, but he thinks they cut back somewhere between $600,000-$650,000. He said the person who was Water Superintendent at that time resigned and went to work for the County and they brought in Mr. Kinsaul in July 2007. Mayor Hines said she asked about our men doing some of the work because we were paying Davis & Brown a lot of money. Councilman Segars said prior to Davis & Brown taking such an integral part of our operations of our system we were constantly getting letters from DHEC about water quality or sewer and they were constantly getting written up. He said since Davis & Brown has been in his capacity serving the City we don’t get those letters anymore his company is making sure that we’re conformed with what DHEC requires us to do. Mayor Hines said we’ve gotten letters about it since then. Councilwoman Reed asked Mr. Brown what kind of funds he is receiving from the City now on a yearly basis from the City. Mr. Kinsaul said a $100,000 a year. Mr. Garland said instead of estimating that he will get

those numbers and put it together. He said they will get the numbers for 2016-2017 and what we've done so far this year. **Councilwoman Baccus made a motion that we grant the application to Ms. Lathan due to the fact that she qualifies to do the grant. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion.** Mayor Hines asked for a show of hands. **Councilpersons Reed, Baccus and Mayor Hines voted for the motion. Councilpersons Carolyn Bruce, Bryant Gardner, John Milling and John Segars voted against the motion** - (Vote 4-3)

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the Joe Louis Lift Station upgrade grant approval for Davis & Brown Construction. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. Mayor Hines asked for a show of hands. **Councilpersons John Milling, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce and Bryant Gardner voted for the motion. Councilpersons Elaine Reed, Sheila Baccus and Mayor Hines voted against the motion.**

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

_____

Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY -SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Mr. Lee Andrews, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Ms. Anna DeWitt, Ms. Rosena James, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mr. Roger and Mrs. Audrey Gore, Mr. Chuck McNeil, Curtis Boyd, Danny Watson, and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning News.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Elaine Reed did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, to approve the Minutes of July 10, 2018. All approved the motion. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion to approve the minutes of August 7, 2018 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion. Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce to approve the Minutes of August 15, 2018 meeting. All approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to accept the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce. Councilwoman Elaine Reed questioned the agenda because she wasn't aware of it and properly informed of the agenda. She said the only agenda

she received was in the mail about a week ago and she is not aware of any other way that we receive our agenda without approval. Mayor Hines said, "Mr. Garland after you changed it did you send the agendas out to Councilmembers"? Mr. Garland said, "Yes ma'am, yes I did by email". Mayor Hines said, "You didn't send it out like you usually sent it out by mail. You usually send a police officer to our houses and give them a copy in the mail. Mr. Garland said he notified each councilmember by text and then he sent an email of the "Amended Agenda". Mayor Hines said everybody didn't get it. Councilwoman Reed said she didn't get an "Amended Agenda", but she did get a text saying there were proposed issues to put on the agenda and she responded to that. Mayor Hines said that's what she got also. Councilwoman Reed said for the two years she has served the only way she has received the agenda, even at the last minute, has been by the officers-delivered or mailed. She said she wouldn't even thought to look at emails. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland what he has to say about this. Mr. Garland said, "Exactly as I said a few minutes ago, I sent out a text advising councilmembers that there was an amended agenda coming and I sent it by email. Mayor Hines said, In the past you have sent it by mail, what stopped that and if there was a change, you've always gotten in the mail"? Mr. Garland said, As I just stated, I sent out by text and I sent it out by email". Mayor Hines said, "But I asked another question, I asked why didn't you send it out like you been sending it out by the police officers bringing it to the house"? Mr. Garland said, "I sent it by text and I sent it by email; that how I sent it". Mayor Hines said, "From now on, please send it by mail also like you've been doing". Mr. Garland said, "Yes ma'am". Councilman Gardner said just for clarity he's looking at a March 5, 2018 "amended agenda" and he just happen to scan down his email just to find another amended agenda and it's something he thinks we do regularly through email. Mayor Hines said the amended agenda comes in the mail also. Councilman Gardner said sometimes they do get them in the mail, but we've had amended agendas they just got by email. Councilwoman Reed said by email she would have gotten the majority responses so that she would know that the majority agree to that and if there was a change. Councilwoman Reed told Mr. Garland he said he had the majority of council, but first of all, she didn't see the agenda and she has not seen the responses that would show her that four people agreed to this. Mr. Garland said he would have to go back and look through his emails and texts. **Councilman Milling made a motion to approve and accept for tonight's meeting, the "amended agenda" that was sent out by email. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion.** Councilman Milling

said he wish that everybody had gotten a copy of it, but it appears 6 out 7 got a copy of it. He said he didn't respond because he didn't see a problem with the "amended agenda". Councilman Milling said it was publicized and presented to the press, so he would make a motion that they go ahead and adopt it and handle the issues on the "amended agenda". Mr. Garland said as a reminder to Council, they are going to iPad in October, so we're be going with paperless meeting agendas and packets. Councilman Segars called for the question. **Councilpersons Sheila Baccus, Elaine Reed and Mayor Hines voted against the motion to approve the meeting agenda. Councilpersons John Milling, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce and Bryant Gardner voted to approve the meeting agenda. (Motion passes)**

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said they had a wonderful successful Race Weekend & Mayo Alumni Weekend. The DDRA finished up its successful Bringing Downtown Alive Series on Friday. They had a great turnout on August 9, 2018 for the community karaoke party sponsored by Medic of South Carolina and during race week at the August 31st concert by Radio Vibe. She thanked the Darlington Lions Club, Darlington Kiwanis Club and the Rotary Club of Darlington for staffing these events. Mrs. Rock extended special thanks to Fast Track Convenience Store, Pepsi of Florence, Wilson Senior Care, M&M Printing, Belk Funeral Home, Kistler-Hardee Funeral Home, Dr. & Mrs. Alex Cohen, Andrews & Bryant as well as the City of Darlington Police & Fire Departments, Street and Sanitation Department, and the Recreation for their assistance with these concerts. She said anyone interested in helping with these concerts should contact her office. They will be setting the schedule and searching for bands, sponsors and vendors for the 2019 season. Mrs. Rock said the next organizational meeting will be announced by the end of the month so have interested groups or individuals contact her as soon as possible so they can be added to their committee email list. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA invites businesses to network and learn about their programs and give feedback for future projects at their monthly members breakfast. She said Mayor Hines, Councilpersons Reed and Baccus attended the last members' breakfast. The next monthly breakfast for members is 8:00 AM Wednesday September 26, 2018 at Takis Diner. Breakfast will be provided for member businesses at no charge and a small donation of $5.00 towards the meal for nonmember businesses. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA partners with Darlington Recreation for "Scare on the

Square" on Thursday October 25, 2018 from 4:30 – 6:00 PM. She said the event has grown in the last three years from 800 children to approximately over 1,200 children. Mrs. Rock said churches, civic groups and other businesses that aren't on the Square are invited to come and set up a table or booth and hand out treats to the children. She said any of those groups that aren't located on the Square that want to join in should contact her office by October 15th to register for a booth, so they can make sure they have room for everyone. Councilman Gardner asked if the registration is free and Mrs. Rock said if you are a city business, if you are within the city limits, or you have your city business license, it's free. Also, non-profits and schools are free. She said there will be a charge if a person is outside the city limits and does not have a city business license then there will be a $25 fee.

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

Ms. Hobbs said this Thursday September 6, 2018 beginning at 6:00 PM, they will have the tailgate. She said she has spoken with all the coaches and it will be on the Square again. Ms. Hobbs said there was a miscommunication in Darlington High and the band had them on the calendar, but the football team did not. She said the whole band might not be there, but the drumline will be there along with the cheerleaders. Ms. Hobbs said Coach Jordan said he will have all the athletic teams there except for the volleyball team because they have a game. Ms. Hobbs said to remember the real reason they are doing this-to bring the community out and to raise can goods for the Lord Cares. Ms. Hobbs said the Darlington Alumni Association is going to be there and they have already started collecting can goods. Ms. Hobbs said she and Quetta McNeil are going to go around to the businesses on the Square and see if they will decorate their windows for the month of September. On Thursday, September 27th – 6:00 PM on the Square they will have a huge Pep Rally and the Darlington Alumni Association will be there in full force. The Toast of Darlington is scheduled for Thursday, October 4, 2018 on Oak Street. Ms. Hobbs said they have a lot of cooks, but they need more sponsors for the event. She said the new Executive Director for the Coastal Conservancy League contacted her and they will have her on September 13, 2018 for a "Lunch & Learn" and partner with The Rotary & Kiwanis Clubs. There will be a "Flu Shot" Clinic at The Darlington Chamber on September 20, 2018. Councilwoman Bruce asked Ms. Hobbs if she could get them a copy of all the events. Ms. Hobbs said it's on the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce Facebook page and website. Ms. Hobbs said she would get them

copies of the flyers. Councilwoman Bruce said there was a conversation over the weekend where citizens were talking about all the activities going on in Darlington, but it's not getting out to the masses. Ms. Hobbs said she had all of that posted on her Facebook page and she thinks people don't know to go to the Chamber. She said she really wants a large corkboard on casters (1/2 cork & ½ write on/wipe off) so she can roll it in at night and place it in front of the big windows so people walking at night can still see it. She said if she can find somebody who can build it and it wouldn't cost a lot. (Mr. Curtis Boyd spoke out in the audience and Mayor Hines told him he's not allowed to talk out like that).

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL (5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Ms. Rose Pruitt said she had the storm water issue on Broad Street and she wanted to thank Council for making an attempt to get a hold of the storm water issue. Ms. Pruitt said the fine new vac truck that the City purchased is doing a really good job, but we haven't had rain in four weeks, so we won't know how much it's helped, but we're hopeful. Ms. Pruitt reminded Council that we've had a hundred years of neglected storm water system so it's really going to take an effort to clear that out because it is one big interconnected system. She said at her location they ran into some issues, so there may be some requests for additional equipment for that truck to help bore out some of that material and she hopes Council will look favorably on that.

Mr. Thomas Bramlett said he lives on Law Street and he saw something on the computer about the grass situation being over fourteen inches the City will fine them $500 because they don't get their grass cut. Mr. Bramlett said he lives just one block over from Pearl Street and there's sofas, beds, buggies from Dollar General, Piggly Wiggly and the grass is growing into the road and he feels we need to take care of the streets and everything before they worry about somebody else's grass. Mr. Bramlett said he didn't know there was a public page that you could go on and complain. He said we need to address the trash pickup in people's yard and on sides of the street. He said the trash truck comes by every Friday and there's sofas, cardboard boxes and fans that's been on the side of his street for two months. Mr. Bramlett said they need to take care of all streets. Mr. Bramlett said the only time the grass gets cut on the highway is when the race is coming and when they cut it they cut up the trash and that makes it look ten times as bad. Mayor Hines said everybody got a flyer in their water

bills today and it said the City of Darlington does not pick up furniture, appliances or construction debris. Mrs. Rock said one other thing mentioned on the flyer is the "SeeClickFix" app and it's also on the City's website where you can report issues. She said if you're on your smart phone it will have your location and you can directly report those to the City and it will go directly to the correct department so that the issue can be taken care of. Mrs. Rock said once you go to the website you'll be able to see different issues that people have reported and the status of the fix. Councilwoman Reed said, "So we are going to pick it up now"? Mayor Hines said, "No, we're not picking it up". Councilman Gardner said he's got no interest in doing a habitual offender fine of $500 for people with fifteen inches of grass, it's for the people who are throwing the couches every other month on the side of the road. He said those are the kind of people they want to go after. Mayor Hines told Mr. Bramlett hopefully they will get his problem solved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2018-15 SALE OF LOCHEND ROAD TO AUDDIE BROWN FOR $5,000

Mr. Garland said Council asked him to check on the wording of this ordinance to cover it in case anybody decided to close this road later. (Mr. Garland read the proposed ordinance) Councilman Milling said to add the words "and maintained" to read the roadbed free of impediments and maintained then ownership of Lochend Road reverts to the City of Darlington. Councilman Milling asked City Attorney Kevin Etheridge if he's had conversation with them one way or the other. Mr. Etheridge said they've discussed the verbiage in there and that's been the extent of it. He said his understanding is that is their intention. Councilman Milling said sometimes there could be some problems once the event has happened. He told Mr. Etheridge to put some language in there with something to this effect- "if they are not doing it, we give them notice if it's not resolved within 30 days then the Clerk of Court can sign". Councilman Milling said it's something we can file in the records to reflect that it's now our problem. Mayor Hines said we'll table this until we get the correct wording.

B) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-17 - HABITUAL OFFENDER ORDINANCE – MR. ALEX GAINEY

Mr. Gainey said what he is targeting is people that own property around the City that's not maintaining it. He said he's not looking at riding through

neighborhoods trying to find out who hasn't been cutting their grass and send them a citation for $500. He said this is for people that we send a letter at the beginning of grass cutting season and if they do cut it, they wait on the City to tell them when to cut it again. He said it's not the City's responsibility to tell people that own lots in the City when to cut their grass. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Gainey if we adequately define what our requirements are for yard maintenance? Mr. Gainey said every time they send a letter out, they send a copy of the ordinance along with it.
Councilman Milling made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-17 Habitual Offender Ordinance relating to our overgrown unkempt properties. Councilman Segars seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

A) OLD FLORENCE HIGHWAY BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD SITE SURVEY BID

Mr. Lee Andrews thanked Council for supporting the Southern 500 Parade this past weekend. He told Mayor and Councilwoman Reed he appreciates them representing City Council on the float. Mr. Andrews said for the topical survey he put it out for bid and got two quotes back. He said Mr. Bert Lynn who is present at the meeting, is the designer for the fields and has the pricing and can answer questions if Council has any. Mr. Andrews said he has two bids for the survey; one from S.C. Professional Land Surveyor (Keck & Wood) out of Rockhill, SC with a bid of $8,500 and David Nesbitt of Nesbitt Surveying Company out of Timmonsville, SC with a bid of $4,800. Mr. Andrews introduced Mr. Bert Lynn who is from Darlington, but now resides in Charlotte, NC. Mr. Lynn said the final selected site is twenty-two acres off Old Florence Highway. He said the goal of the plan was to see how they could maximize the site and get as many ballfields as possible. They went through several iterations and finally landed on one that had six 201' ballfields, a larger softball field, parking, a building that would contain restrooms, concessions, an umpire room, a play area, walking trail and potential maintenance area for the park. Mr. Lynn said those are the amenities that will fir on the twenty-two acres and they still have plenty of room to handle any storm water or anything like that, that they need to. Councilman Milling said Lee mentioned something about phasing and wanted to know if we went that route what would he propose to

be accomplished first. Mr. Lynn said any ballfield that you build you're going to have to build restrooms, parking and sidewalks so you'll have accessible means. When it comes to budget, we'll have to make a decision on whether we want more ballfields or fewer ballfields with lights. Mr. Andrews said we can phase it out and cut cost. He said its projected at $3.5 million. Mr. Andrews said Mr. Lynn has it worked out so that if we did four ballfields with lights we would come in at $1.5 million. Mr. Lynn said this would include the building that would have the concessions room, restrooms, umpire room and 120 parking spaces. Mr. Lynn said the City can do the project in as many phases as they want to. Mr. Andrews said there are grants available for Little League. He said they are looking at Major League baseball grants through Mr. Orlando Hudson. He said there's a lot of irons in the fire to try to get that money kicked up to where we don't have to phase it, but if we have to phase it, we will. Mr. Andrews said opening day for football is September 15th at 10:00 AM. Councilman Milling said there's not only a difference in the price, but there's a difference in the scope. Councilman Milling said the firm from Rockhill put storm, sanitary sewer, power (overhead & underground) gas and waterline utilities and Nesbitt says surrounding roads, drainage outfalls, system structures & fences. Mr. Andrews said it's a topical survey and if we need to go back and give Keck & Wood just a topographical or he can tell Nesbitt that they need to…Councilman Milling interrupted and said Nesbitt's survey is a topographical survey. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Lynn if we need to do the in depth work that Keck & Wood is suggesting? Mr. Lynn said he would because we'll need to know where utilities are going to be pulled from. He said once they locate where the power, sanitary sewer and water is it will help them get more accurate estimates as to how much it will cost to do the project. Mayor Hines said, "So, tonight this is just for discussion"? Mr. Andrews said he can take it back and Nesbitt can bump his up or Keck & Wood can bring theirs down. Councilman Milling said whatever Mr. Lynn thinks we need, but if Nesbitt has not given us the full features of his, then we need to ask him what his cost will be for that.

B) MR. CHUCK MCNEIL – PDRTA – SATURDAY BUS SERVICE PETITION

Mr. McNeil said when he came before Council earlier this summer about the budget PDRTA bus riders came to speak on behalf of the service and to voice their need for Saturday bus service. Mr. McNeil said the riders mentioned to him that night that they could get a petition which might help to sway Council's decision to provide Saturday bus service. Mr. McNeil

said he had forgotten about their conversation and the riders approached him recently with a petition in support of Saturday bus service. Mr. McNeil said ridership on the DART bus has increased by over 10%. He said to operate four hours of service on Saturday (the existing bus route) for once a week for an entire year they would need approximately $2,800 on the local level. Mr. McNeil said we're already three months into the fiscal year, so if the City were to consider trying this service on a pilot basis, by the time it would be approved and up and running, we would reduce the $2,800 by the number of months left in the fiscal year. Mayor Hines congratulated Mr. McNeil on his upcoming retirement in March 2019 which she heard about at a meeting she attended. Councilwoman Baccus asked Mr. McNeil what would the hours be for Saturday? Mr. McNeil said he would hesitate to try to answer that because he would want to get input of the riders. Councilman Milling asked Mr. McNeil if he could get a feel for what the proposed schedule would be between now and the next Council meeting? Councilman Milling said they will have the information by the next Council meeting, so they'll put it in the agenda and ask Mr. Garland to see what funding sources might be available.

C) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-16 REGULATION FOR SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES

Mr. Garland said Council members expressed their concern on page 6 with the FOIA under permit applications (c) so they changed that with input from MASC. It now read 'the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request made by citizen or interested party and City of Darlington denies any such request, the company claiming proprietary or confidential info shall pay all legal fees arising from any FOIA lawsuits. The other concern was the cost for small wireless facilities. Mr. Garland said after checking with other communities, they adjusted the fee to $100 per year for a wooden pole or $250 per year for all other city own poles. Councilman Segars said if this pertains to City own poles, what about poles that Duke Energy owns? Mr. Garland said we wouldn't get any fees from them, so the section we just talked about would not apply. Mr. Garland reminded Council that this is for promoting better wireless coverage in underserved areas. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-16 Regulation for small Wireless Facilities. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

D) SCRIA GRANT APPLICATION FOR JOE LOUIS LIFT STATION

Mr. Garland said at the recent MASC meeting in Florence a representative from Pee Dee COG approached him after the meeting and she said there was EDA money available to communities that were under distress from the recent hurricanes from the last few years. He said he followed up on this with the person that writes the grants for Pee Dee COG (Mr. Clay Young) and he said indeed money was available but there were certain stipulations to go along with it. Mr. Garland said Mr. Young suggested that he talk with Robin Cooley, the State EDA Director, which he did. Mr. Garland said there's 1.47 million that's available in the Southeast United States. He said EDA is usually tied to job creation, but this grant is not. The grant is an 80/20 match and there's no limit as to what you can apply for. He said Robin Cooley said we needed to get the application in by the middle of October. Mr. Garland said he ran some of the ideas by Robin Cooley that included Joe Louis pump station, the Alltel-Verizon pump station, Allen Street, Grove Hill pump station and the Main pump station. He said Ms. Cooley said all of those sounded good to her and she's available to come and look at what we're proposing. Mr. garland said it is staff's recommendation that we put in for the EDA grant instead of applying for RIA grant just because there's a larger pot of money available with the EDA grant. He said EDA money does not come along very often with it not being tied directly to economic development or job creation. It's a great opportunity to update the five pump stations which are along the corridor where we have our most and greatest growth. Mr. Garland asked that Council suspend our RIA application for the Joe Louis Lift Station. Mayor Hines told Mr. Garland she doesn't' see why we can't do both. She said with doing the grant for free, we can get that one and still do the EDA grant. Mr. Garland said from his understanding we can't apply for two different grants for the same thing. Mayor Hines said, "But you said we can get as much as we want-it's $1.47 million for the Southeast". Mayor Hines asked how much we can apply for and Mr. Garland said there's no limit on what we can apply for. Councilwoman Baccus said she also had a conversation with Mr. Clay Young today and she asked him several questions about this grant and what he said was, the grant can be written within a business area, but if it's more than one thing included in the grant all those area stations have to be tied together. Councilwoman Baccus said they can't be separate stations that not tied together. She said she asked him if the lift station on Joe Louis and the lift station at Verizon could be considered as tied together and he told her he wasn't sure. She said Verizon is in the business district and it feeds into Joe Louis, but he's not sure whether Joe Louis would be included in that or not, he would have to research it and get back to her. Mr.

Young told her as far as Allen Street is concerned, it's not tied to Joe Louis or Verizon, so you can't tie those in together. She said Mr. Young also told her that the maximum is $2 million. Councilwoman Baccus said she talked with Lindsey first and then she spoke with Mr. Young to try to get an understanding of what we need to do basically for Joe Louis. She said Mr. Young said this is based around the Erma Storm, but they opened it up differently. There's a total of $1.47 million available and Georgia, Florida and South Carolina will be applying for this grant. Mayor Hines said, "So you're getting different information"? Mr. Garland said he asked general parameter, he didn't ask any specifics. He said he hasn't put all the grant numbers together yet. Councilwoman Reed said, "At our last Council meeting you all were very emphatic about making sure that Davis & Brown do the RIA grant, so why are we even considering that"? she said if Allen Street is not included with Joe Louis, then we still can apply for the EDA for Allen Street. Councilwoman Reed said we need to do what we said. She said there was a lot of discussion about the RIA grant and Davis & Brown was voted to get it, so let them do it. Why suspend that, she asked? Councilwoman Reed said, "that's what you wanted, you wanted them to get that done and it needs to be done now". Councilman Segars said based on what Mr. Garland's recommendation is, this is something new that we didn't have last month when we were voting on the RIA grant. He said there's more money in this pot that we may be able to get a hold to rather than what the RIA grant is going for and he thinks they need to go with Mr. Garland's recommendation and let him bring that person over here and then he get those specific questions answered and we can see what we can tie together and what we can't tie together and how much money we can apply for. Councilwoman Reed said that sounds really good, but her point is, right now we understand that Joe Louis is in critical stage and that's what the whole point is about. Councilwoman Reed said, "And while they are negotiating about money and who is going to do what, the folk in that area are really suffering". She said she doesn't know if this was a direct result of that station, but a family that lives on Howard Street had raw sewerage in their yard. She said if we can still get the money, we need to. Councilwoman Reed said it is clear that Allen Street can't be tied to Joe Louis, at least that's what's being said. Councilwoman Reed said, "So if we suspend that thinking we could get both stations done under the EDA, is not correct". She said we know that's not right. Councilman Segars said we don't know that yet. Councilwoman Reed said that what the gentleman said to Councilwoman Baccus. Councilwoman Bruce said, "First I want to address Councilwoman Reed's comment that ya'll voted for Davis & Brown to get

the RIA grant". Councilwoman Bruce said Councilman Segars already said what she was going to say. She said that vote was taken prior to any knowledge of an EDA grant. Councilwoman Bruce said from her understanding, prior to the information that Councilwoman Baccus shared tonight she said the EDA grant is a grant where we have an opportunity to get more money and do more within the City of Darlington as it pertains to our lift stations and not anything that has to be tied to another lift station. Councilwoman Bruce said that was the information that was shared first, so that's why the consideration for the EDA grant was given prior to this information that she gave tonight. Councilwoman Bruce said it sounds to her like we don't have all the information that we need because we got a story here and a story from the City Manager. She said there's someone that would come and discuss this with them and give them the right information. Mr. Garland said that would be the State EDA Director. Councilwoman Bruce asked if the person is willing to come and give them the information and Mr. Garland said, "Yes". Mayor Hines wanted to know when she would be able to come, and Mr. Garland said he would have to call and ask her. Mayor Hines said we need that information, so we can go forward with this. Councilwoman Bruce said she don't know about voting for something where we've got different stories. She said we need definite answers, correct information and then make decisions and vote based on that. Councilwoman Reed said she was the same meeting where this information was given. She said the only point she's making is that we have already voted on getting the grant to do Joe Louis because it is necessary. Councilwoman Reed said, "Why don't we go ahead while we're researching what EDA does". Mr. Garland asked Mr. Kinsaul if the Joe Louis, Alltel, Grove Hill and Main pump stations are all tied together, and Mr. Kinsaul said, "Yes". Mr. Kinsaul said Alltel feeds to Joe Louis and Joe Louis feeds into Grove Hill. He said the only one not in this group is Allen Street. Mr. Garland said if we take Allen Street out then we'll probably have more than $1.2 to $1.3 million dollars with EDA. Mr. Garland said they want applications in their office by the middle of October. He said if the other four pump stations tie in and Allen Street doesn't, let's move ahead with the other four. Councilwoman Baccus asked what the maximum amount is that we can apply for with the RIA grant? Was it $1 million? Mr. Garland said the original money that we put in for, the estimate from Davis & Brown was $400,000 for Joe Louis Lift Station and Alltel Pump Station. Councilwoman Baccus asked what the maximum was that we could put in for the RIA grant and Mr. Garland said $1,000,000. Councilwoman Baccus said, "If you can do both grants and they're doing it for free, I don't

understand why we're not going ahead and put in for it because there's no guarantee we're going to get neither one of them". Councilman Segars said the question here is the RIA grant is not going to be enough money to do Joe Louis because it has a big price tag on it. Councilman Segars said, "Now we're going after a bigger pot of money and we can get more stuff done, so let's forego the RIA grant for Joe Louis and try to get the other lift stations in on the same ticket". Councilwoman Baccus said, "If you can only get $2 million dollars and you're talking about four lift stations, that's not going to solve Joe Louis problem". She said the main thing we were addressing from day one was Joe Louis Lift Station and the problems in South Darlington with that lift station. Mayor Hines asked how many businesses does Joe Louis Blvd. support? Mr. Garland said about 800 jobs on the By-Pass, but we have the capability to send sewer to Florence with the EDA grant we got in 2014. He said if we have a problem, we can send it to Florence because we have that line in place. Mr. Garland said he thinks it is a sound policy to move forward with the EDA application minus the Allen Street pump station. Councilman Milling asked if we would run into a problem on an EDA grant with things being tied together, if we have attempted to remedy one of the lift stations that would be a part of the package? Mr. Garland said we for a successful EDA grant for $1.8 million dollars in 2011 for some of the same issues that he's talking about now which included upgrading sewer service at Georgia Pacific, PolyQuest and Nucor Steel Mill. He said they all were done with the idea they all tied in and go to one place. Councilman Milling said his question was more on the order that if we do Joe Louis as a separate item, would that negatively affect our grant application for EDA? Mr. Garland said if you don't include it with Eda it would be hard to do the EDA application without Joe Louis in it because it's the middle of everything we're talking about. Councilwoman Reed asked, "Why not just Allen Street? The EDA could be specifically for that. Mr. Garland said, "Why not do Allen Street with RIA, that the way to go"? Mayor Hines said, "I thought the RIA grant has to be tied to a business"? Mr. Garland said, "But you can't do an EDA because it ties in with the other". Mayor Hines said Joe Louis is in a residential area, but it ties in to some of the businesses out on Highway 52 so that's why we could tie that in, but we could not tie Allen Street in. Mayor Hines said, "So now you're saying why not do the RIA grant for Allen Street, but that's not possible from what you told us". Mr. Garland said, "Yes, it is if you wait until March 2019 to do Allen Street with the RIA grant". Mr. Garland said the storm water grant will be closed then and we'll be able to apply for the Allen Street Station in March. Councilwoman Baccus said we don't know if

Joe Louis will qualify or not because he said he had to check to see whether it will qualify. Mayor Hines said we need to get him in, so we'll know what is what because we've got mixed information. Councilman Gardner said it seems like the worry was with the stations connecting and Mr. Kinsaul said they all connect minus the Allen Street Lift Station. Councilman Gardner said it seems like we would go after four out of five and get four out of five lift stations upgraded and brought back to standard. Councilwoman Bruce said if we can apply for an EDA grant and take care of more lift stations in the City vs one or two, then she thinks this is a win for Darlington. Mayor Hines said we can sit here all night and discuss this, but it has already been established that we got some mixed-up information and we need to get that clear first before we can go on. Councilman Gardner said he thinks we had the mixed-up information clarified when the Water Superintendent said that we can tie all those together. Mayor Hines said, "He doesn't know anything about the grant and we need to hear from whoever we're getting the grant from". **Councilman Segars made a motion that they instruct the City Manager to pursue getting that person over her to look at what we've got, what we can tie together and what grants we can apply for and let's move forward. Mayor Hines, Councilpersons Bruce and Reed all seconded the motion.** Councilman Milling asked if they are dealing with item D or item E? Mayor Hines said she thought they were discussing item D, but it came up about EDA. **Councilman Segars amended his motion that they forego the RIA grant that they voted on last month and pursue this EDA grant. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion**. **Councilman Segars restated his motion to instruct the City Manager to pursue the EDA grant trying to tie the four lift stations together and vote down the RIA grant that Council approved last month. (Mayor Hines said with new bidding) Councilman Gardner seconded the motion.** Mr. Garland said according to Mr. Young, since Pee Dee COG is a government agency, they don't go through a bid process. They don't charge to write any of the EDA grants they charge a flat fee. They administer any EDA grant regardless of size for $25,000. Mayor Hines said, "So COG will be doing the grant"? And Mr. Garland said, "Yes". The engineering part will be bid out. **Councilman Milling restated Councilman Segars' motion as he thought he meant it. They are directing the City Manager to withdraw any application for the RIA grant and that we go forward with the EDA grant to try and get funding for four lift stations**. Councilman Segars agreed that's what he said. **All approved the motion.**

E) EDA GRANT APPLICATION FOR SEWER PUMP STATIONS IMPROVEMENTS (Discussed with Item D)

F) DISCUSSION AND VOTE COUNCIL MINUTES JULY 5, 2011

Mr. Garland said he's not ready to discuss this because he just got some information from the Attorney about a legal ruling which he hasn't had time to go over yet. (Tabled)

REMINDERS

Tuesday September 25, 2018 – 6:00 PM, City Council Work Session;
Tuesday October 2, 2018 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce read a letter she wrote saying there has been false accusations made against her, by both citizens and some council members. She said after the vote on August 15, 2018 meeting of 4-3 to award Davis & Brown the RIA grant, she was approached in an aggressive way by someone who questioned her vote and expressed their total disappointment. Councilwoman Bruce also said someone who is not a citizen of Darlington took to Facebook and accused her of voting against a Black female owned Engineering Firm and being paid off. Councilwoman Bruce said she wanted to set the record straight and said Lathan Consultant, LLC is not a black female owned engineering firm and nor is Lathan Consultant, LLC licensed to perform any engineering projects in the City of Darlington. She said it just what it says, a consultant Firm. She said she takes her role as Mayor Pro-Tem very seriously and is not bought or paid by anyone. Councilwoman Bruce said her vote is not obligated to anyone other than the citizens of Darlington. She said she knows as an elected official she is subject to criticism; however, this letter was written to ensure that the citizens of Darlington know the truth. Everyone applauded Councilwoman Bruce for the letter she had written. Councilwoman Reed said, "Very good, very good".

Councilman John Milling said they all received a letter from Mr. Todd Hardee inviting them to join him for a road trip to Sumter, SC on Wednesday, September 26, 2018. He is asking everyone that plans to attend to meet him at Kistler-Hardee Funeral Home at 10:00 AM and they can travel together. The purpose of the trip is to look around and see what other small towns are doing with regards to downtown revitalization.

Councilwoman Reed thanked Councilwoman Bruce for clearing that up because she has always supported and respected how folk vote. She said she has never tried to demean or attack her or anyone. Councilwoman Reed said, "When you hear whatever I say up here, that's all it is". "I want you to hear it, whatever differences that we may have and how you feel about the issues, we stand as a full council". Councilwoman Reed told Councilwoman Bruce she is sorry that those things happened to her and she will lift her up and is glad that she is still here. She said she don't go on Facebook, so she didn't know all that was going on. Councilwoman Baccus said, "I just want to say one thing in reference to that letter, the truth will be the truth and the truth will be known".

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce to go into Executive Session at 8:11 PM to discuss a contractual matter concerning Police Department contract with Enterprise Vehicle Lease.

(5 Minute Break)

Executive Session ended at 8:40 PM.

Councilman Milling made a motion that the City of Darlington through the Police Department enter a lease of vehicles as submitted to them by our Police Chief with Enterprise Fleet Management for lease of 4 vehicles in year one and continuing with the lease of the other vehicles. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

_____

Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 AT 6:00 PM

The City of Darlington held a Work Session in the Old Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 6:00 PM. Present at the meeting: Mayor Gloria C. Hines, City Manager Howard Garland; Council Members: Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Bruce, John Segars, Elaine Reed, John Milling, Sheila Baccus and Bryant Gardner. Others in attendance included: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Ms. Anna DeWitt, Ms. Betty Jackson, and several other visitors.

Mayor Hines called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

EDA SEWER LIFT STATIONS GRANT APPLICATION – MR. GARLAND

Mr. Garland passed out a letter he received from Mr. Johnny Brown, Executive Director of the Pee Dee Regional COG certifying that they will write an EDA application for four sewer lift and pump stations at no charge to the City of Darlington. If a grant is awarded, the COG will administer the grant at a cost not to exceed $25,000. Mr. Garland said he takes Mr. Brown at his word because he doesn't know him to be one that would go back on something he has agreed to. Mr. Garland said the application is for the Joe Louis Station, The Verizon/Alltel Station, the Old Treatment Plant Station and the Hampton Street Station behind Grove Hill Cemetery. Mayor Hines said that's only four stations, and asked Mr. Garland why not five? Mr. Garland said because Allen Street is not connected. Councilwoman Baccus asked Mr. Garland if they don't get this grant, where is that going to leave us? Mr. Garland said he prefers to be an optimist and say, "when we get this grant" and get these facilities fixed and that will put us in a much better situation than we are currently. Mr. Garland said any EDA application that he's been involved with has never failed. He said he's known Ms. Bonnie Ammons, the RIA Director for 20 years; he's known the EDA Director Ms. Robin Cooley for a dozen years and he will pull every string and use every trick he knows to get the grant done. Councilwoman Baccus said her question is, "if we don't get this grant still, where do we stand then? What are our options then of applying for a grant? Mr. Garland said it depends on the will of the Council when we have our budget workshops next Spring. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So it will be spring before we can apply again for a grant". Mr. Garland

said, “Yes Ma’am”. Mayor Hines and Councilwoman Baccus asked if this would be in March and Mr. Garland said it would have to be RIA or CDBG. He said you can reapply for EDA, but EDA regular grants are 50/50, but the one we are applying for now is 80/20. Councilwoman Reed said some of the reasons for this grant, from what they were told, is the criteria for getting this grant which is based on the hurricane. Councilwoman Reed said right now Darlington doesn’t look like they are getting much assistance from the hurricane because we haven’t been declared a disaster. She said that’s the concern that there may be some reasons that we don’t get it because of the hurricane. Mr. Garland said he’ll discuss item #4 – Hurricane Florence in a few minutes. Councilwoman Reed she was just saying the EDA grant was connected to the hurricane. Mayor Hines and Councilmembers said they don’t think it has anything to do with the hurricane this is economic development. Councilwoman Reed said, “Yes it did”. Councilman Gardner said it was a previous hurricane, that’s why the money was available. Councilwoman Reed said it was a previous hurricane, she’s not talking about this. She said that’s what they said in the meeting and that’s the reason for all of this. Mr. Garland said the COG brought this grant opportunity to us and we would not have known about it otherwise. Councilman Milling said, “We’re in a position now where we’re applying for this grant. All we can do is apply for the grant, hope for the best and do the best we can and deal with the outfall if it doesn’t come our way”. Councilwoman Bruce said I think her question is, in order for us to get this EDA grant that Darlington has to be declared a disaster area, is that what you’re asking, and we have not been declared? Councilwoman Reed said, “But it’s based on the past and it’s Matthew”. Ms. Rock said she was at the same meeting with Ms. Reed and Mr. Garland were at and they spoke with the COG representatives about it. Ms. Rock said the reason the EDA grant was opened so that it was not attached to jobs was related to Hurricane Matthew and we were declared a disaster during that time. Ms. Jannie Lathan said if you Google it, the EDA it’s three specific Hurricanes that it applies for and it has to be during the year 2017. She said Hurricane Matthew is not one of them. Councilwoman Bruce said, “So someone at the COG presented you with an opportunity, Mr. Garland, for the City of Darlington to apply for an EDA grant that we don’t qualify for”? “That makes no sense, why would they give you information that…seem like they would know that”. Mr. Garland said, “I would trust the EDA Rep Robin Couley and I would trust the folks at the COG and what they told me”. He said Ms. Robin Cooley who’s worked with EDA for the last dozen years and previously worked at the Central COG office in Columbia, she has never led him wrong. Councilwoman Reed said, “And they said that we would qualify”.

Mr. Garland said they told us about the money, they said to put in for it, that we met the criteria. Councilwoman Reed said, "You keep saying like they told you specific, but that was the basis at the meeting, they told everybody that". Ms. Rock said after the meeting they specifically met with us individually and talked with them about and said that we should put in for this because we will get this money. Councilwoman Reed said, "Ok that's good enough for me".

CITY MANAGER CONTRACT CONDITIONS

Councilwoman Reed said her concerns is that since they have already voted to extend the City Managers contract, she would like to be able to develop a job description. She said when they were discussing or trying to get set up for the work session, she threw out some things that she would like to see as far as the administration of the City. Councilwoman Reed said she would like for Council to consider an HR Department and they begin looking into that. She said she would like to see our Grievance Committee actually functioning. She said she knows Mr. Garland said it was established, but she wants to see it functioning. She said we need to have policies set up so that we can work through solutions. Councilwoman Reed said she would like to get a job description with all of Council's input. Mayor Hines said she would like to see job descriptions because she thinks some people when they are hired do not have the qualifications for the job. Councilman Segars asked, "Are we still talking about the City Manager's position"? Mayor Hines said, "Yes, about the City Manager's contract conditions". Councilwoman Baccus said she thinks we also need to get an engineer. Councilwoman Baccus said she and several councilmembers spent a lot of time during the storm looking for and finding catch basins. She said they nobody knew which ones had been serviced, hadn't been serviced, where they're running at and where the water running at. Councilwoman Baccus said nobody knows where the catch basins or where the drain lines are located or which way the water is running. She said we are paying Davis & Brown a fortune and we don't even know where the water runs at. Councilwoman Baccus said Council people out walking in the water because we don't know where the drain lines are. Mayor Hines said the vac truck is doing an excellent job. Mayor Hines said all of the catch basins in the City need to be mapped out, so we're know where they are going. Councilman Segars said, "I think that was the intent when we brought the vac truck was to start servicing catch basins throughout the City, but we've only had the darn thing for what, a month". "You can't fix a hundred-year's problem in 5 weeks". He said the street department is aware of the situations you are talking about and as they can get to those areas, they'll be working on

them and doing what they can for them. They can't do it overnight. Councilwoman Baccus said, "It has nothing to do with being overnight, the problem is, he doesn't even know which they are going". Councilman Segars said, they need to clean them out. Councilwoman Baccus said they cleaned Chestnut Street out, they cleaned Jessamine Street out and they still don't know which way the water is going. She said it rained again and water sat there in Chestnut Street again. They still have no idea of which way the water goes. Councilwoman Baccus said there should be a map. Councilman Milling said, "Yeah, but nobody has developed a map over the last fifty years, so what we're doing is we now have the equipment that can be utilized to work on these problems and I would think that a mapping for where we are would be something that we could compile". Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland if we have certain mapping systems that we currently in place that we can begin to develop a city wide mapping system. Mr. Garland said we have a company called WTP who we use to map and do overlays for the Codes Department. He said the Fire Department use them as well. Mr. Garland said if you're going to hire an engineer, what about software. He said the software could just as expensive as an engineer. Mr. Garland said he talked with a local company who just hired someone out of Clemson and the starting salary was $75,000 plus benefits and they don't even have their certification yet. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he checked Hartsville. Mr. Garland said Hartsville did have an engineer, but when they did away with their storm water program they fired him, and he went to work for another engineering firm. Mr. Garland said the thing that makes the most sense from a staffing standpoint, is if you're going to get somebody like that it has to be for a limited amount of time (3-5 years, no more). Mr. Garland said from his opinion it's not going to be an engineer that's going to do the physical work, it's going to be someone that's going to help with mapping and working with SC DOT. He said a lot of these are DOT roads. Mr. Garland said and if DOT is not going to fix not so much the catch basins, but how they drain on Chestnut and Jessamine, you're not going to get anywhere. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he's ever met with them about what's going on in the City to get with them to see what they can do. Mr. Garland said he's spoken with them at different times and they tried to get up with them during the hurricane, but all they did was play phone tag. Councilwoman Reed said several weeks ago she was talking with the construction crew for the southwest storm water project after they hit a water line and could not stop it. She said they didn't have a clue or anyone to guide them as to how to get across the street because they didn't have any drawings or anything. Councilwoman Reed said the construction crew told her they are drawing things out as they go along, and they will pass that information along,

but they didn't have anything to go by. Councilwoman Reed said they may have a different group working on other projects, so these things need to be coordinated. Councilwoman Reed said we need to go forward and do whatever we say and not sit back because evidently that's an extra critical part of the growth of Darlington if we get the mapping system worked out. Ms. Jannie Lathan said the point that Councilwoman Baccus raised is a great one. She said hiring an entry level or junior engineer especially a civil engineer is critical to where the City is at this particular point and time. Ms. Lathan said if you hire someone who's trained and disciplined and degreed as a civil engineer, they can do cost estimates for us. She said that skill set should be resident and inside. They can do on site construction inspections, they can help the City Manager in terms of managing the construction costs. They are also trained on mapping systems. Before they leave with a degree in civil engineering they know how to locate, map all our underground utility systems. Ms. Lathan said they are trained and disciplined in terms of how to come up with comprehensive maintenance plans. Ms. Lathan said if you take the storm drain, we should be starting from the lowest point and cleaning upward. If you start from the high point and clean downward, we're making the problem worse. Ms. Lathan said a degreed engineer would be trained in theory; they would know how to design storm water systems; sanitary sewer systems and they can work and help with the engineering firms that the City hires to make sure everything is properly bidded and properly managed. Ms. Lathan said this is something that Council really should consider. Councilwoman Reed asked Mr. Garland if it is feasible to put what's being identified by the project they are working on now, to be put together with WTF? Mr. Garland said he doesn't know, he'll have to talk with Alex or Sheila about that. Councilman Gardner asked if our storm water master plan include all the stuff within the center of the City as far as our piping? Mr. Garland said he'll have to look at it; he said he's not going to sit there and say that it does because he doesn't have it in front of him. Mr. Garland said just as an example: He said every house on Shoshone Drive that was down the hill, flooded extensively. He said what do we do for that street, Hank Haynie Lane, Circle Drive and Oakview? Mr. Garland said a citizen called him Monday night and said a deputy said they needed to evacuate because the dam is going to overtop at Sonoco. He said we didn't know anything about it nor did we have a plan in place. Mr. Garland said Sonoco nor DOT has never met with us. He said after about six hours and meeting with Council three times that day, they finally figured out what would flow and what would not flow. He said that problem had never risen before, so it was for everybody sitting here tonight. Mr. Garland said they desperately need to meet with the County and the other municipalities to

work on better communication between these entities. He said Sonoco did not contact us at any time to let us know what was happening before, during or after this event. He said he didn't let the folks in the Palmetto Fire District know either. Mr. Garland said they had to do multiple boat rescues in that area. Councilwoman Reed said, "So when you say Sonoco need to, I mean, is that something they supposed to do"? "I mean, tell how Sonoco, the business, get to be the one to notify is about any weather condition"? Councilman Gardner said, "Because they own the dam". Councilwoman Bruce said, "Not the weather conditions, the dam. The possibility of the dam over topping". Councilwoman Reed said, I know about the dam, but they did let somebody know because that's how it got out". Mr. Garland said again that a citizen called him at home and told him a deputy said they needed to evacuate. Mr. Garland said he called Senator Malloy and he was the one that gave us the order and the directive to get up there. He said it wasn't the County Administrator or the Sheriff. Mr. said they told us the dam was going to overtop after midnight and that we might have a significant water event within the next 12-24 hours. Mr. Garland said he was told they went door to door in Hartsville and evacuated dozens of homes. Ms. Anna Dewitt said Sonoco has an emergency action plan online and it says exactly who they must notify and when they must notify. Mayor Hines said she's assuming if it started in Hartsville and stayed in Hartsville, they wouldn't have to notify us, but if it's coming over into Darlington, they should notify us. Councilman Gardner said all the other areas Mr. Garland mentioned are just like Jessamine and Chestnut Streets, they need to be cleaned out. He said once we get everything cleaned out we'll see what we're left with and then what we need to fix from there. Councilman Gardner said he thinks we have a general idea where our pipes are for the City on the hill but the other areas we really don't have any clue. He said you bring up valid points that I would agree with. He said we need to have a good perspective and good visual of what systems we have even if we do it by area. Councilwoman Reed said she want to get us a course of action for dealing with Sonoco and the dam. She asked if we can be added so we can be notified? Councilwoman Reed said, "By Mr. Garland bringing it up, it's like we need to do something with it; It's like we're slighted". Ms. Anna Dewitt said online information says that they are to notify the County Emergency Management and DHEC and then from there the County Emergency Management, it's their responsibility to notify us. Councilwoman Reed said, "So we might need to get up with the County". She told Mr. Garland she knows this is within his paygrade. Mr. Garland said what's within your paygrade is to go to your peers with the County and tell them about the issues during the hurricane; we want to meet with Council and

staff to go over what we do if something really bad happens. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So if we go to County Council and sit down and talk to County Council, and if you and the County Administrator are not on good speaking terms, that's not going to make him call you. Councilwoman Bruce said, "But that's beside the point because based on what their website says they are to contact two people-the County and DHEC. Councilwoman Bruce said if they contact the County and nobody from the County contacted us, that's the breakdown so regardless of what the relationship is, the County didn't do their part. Councilwoman Baccus said, "That's what I just said". Councilman Segars said that's what Howard and Chief Washington tried to tell them in the meeting. (Council is talking at the same time) Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland to write a letter to the County Administrator (Copy County Council as well as City Council and Mayor Pennington) and say we would like to have a meeting where we can work out some of the issues that came to light during this last event so everybody will be in a position to move forward in the future should unfortunately such an event occurs again. Councilman Milling said just try to get something set up and as many of Council that can attend, will attend. He said they can beat this around here, but until they actually sit down, and everybody has a chance to say what needs to be said about getting in touch with us nothing will be accomplished. Mayor Hines said she feel that they need to come together with the County because this is a serious issue. Mayor Hines said, "When something happens like this, personal things need to be set aside and whatever it is that's going on as to the reason why we couldn't come together, it needs to be set rectified". Councilman Segars said he don't know if it's a personality problem or not. He said this is an issue that Sonoco said they had never in their wildest dreams ever thought of losing that dam over there". Councilman Segars said, "So, this is new ground we're on and this is a good learning experience and we dodged the bullet this time". Mayor Hines said, "I said if there was anything personal". She said regardless of what happened we needed to come together on this; everybody needed to be notified because they know that water that left Hartsville had to come to Darlington. Councilman Segars said Charles was probably overworked and on the edge so long and he probably wasn't thinking too clear.

Mr. Garland said Council will get the City Manager's report for the hurricane later in the week. Mr. Garland said he learned from Chesterfield County that we have been declared a disaster area. (Mr. Garland passed out information for Council to read) He said he called Mr. Charles Stewart today about it and he confirmed it. Councilman Gardner asked, "If "we" means Darlington County of Darlington City"? Mr. Garland said, "Darlington County". Mr.

Garland said Charles said it's only for emergency procedures and measures that we took before the hurricane and immediately after that period. Mr. Garland said Charles told him there's another meeting set up for Thursday that FEMA is coming in, and he wouldn't have known about it if he hadn't called him. Mr. Garland said there were assessments that they wanted to do of our properties in the City and they had 30 minutes notice to set that up on Thursday. He said once they have the meeting Thursday he will have a better idea of what we need to do. He said he's not making any calls or anything until that meeting Thursday because he wants to hear it from the FEMA people. Mr. Garland said the Street Department had worked the best they ever have during this storm. Mr. Garland said Karen Carroll, Chief Washington, Jamesey Morrison, Moses Jackson, Pat Cavanaugh, Lisa Rock and Freddie Kinsaul all worked long days and nights. He said from staff recommendations in the future, when they do those updates during the storm, we need to have the department heads meet and then they can meet with Council. He said he don't think it's a good idea to mix staff with Council anymore. Mr. Garland said it's also staff recommendation that we have an EOC for the City based on the 2nd floor in the Fire Department. Mr. Garland said we also need a generator for the Police Department. He said they also need a landline for the Police and Fire Departments. Mr. Garland told Council they can report things, but it should be reported (especially during a storm) by a quick text if it's working. If text is not working, we need to set up some type of system where they let him know what's going on and they will get it out quickly. Mr. Garland said the social media adds another level of anxiety to this that we haven't experienced before. He said they were under a great deal of pressure from the public to get information out. He said staff and Council need some type of social media training. Councilman Gardner said on the social media front and getting information out, we need to be able to get information to the citizens a little quicker. Councilman Milling told Mr. Garland he would like him to write up those various recommendations and send them out, so they have them and can review them. Councilman Milling told Mr. Garland to have Lisa, him or somebody designated as the Communications Person so that we don't have information coming from various sources because sometimes that causes confusion and unrest. Councilman Milling said what Lisa did on the one that went out on that afternoon even though it got superseded later, he thought it put things out there. Mr. Garland said Sonoco got mad about that and they called the County and the County called us because we put out a press release. Mr. Garland said he tried to contact the County, but they didn't want to talk to us. Mr. Garland said he told the County Administrator because they had a meeting about that press release and he told him his Council told

him to put it out, so he put it out. He told him if he's upset about it, he's sorry, but he begged him on the phone to listen to them as they read it, but he said, "No". Councilman Milling said we have certain responsibilities that exceed that which the County has. Councilwoman Reed said she wanted to comment on the social media issue. She told Councilman Gardner he is correct on some of that, but there are those who don't pay any attention to none of that. Councilwoman Reed the traditional way of getting information out is what they are used. She said those that had power were glued to the tv and they kept looking at the information scrolling at the bottom of the T.V. Councilwoman Reed said even though we rely on Facebook and other apps, at least keep it on the traditional way. Ms. Lathan said she wanted to reinforce what Councilman Milling said. She said she has managed global environment health and safety team, emergency response team and developed and managed crisis management teams. She said based on the particular crisis there should be a spokesperson. She said in corporate American they provided them with media training which taught them what to say, what not to say and how to deal with the media. Ms. Lathan said in a case like this Howard would identify who's going to be the spokesperson in dealing with hurricanes and these types of situations. She said if it's a police matter that person would more than likely be the Police Chief. Ms. Lathan that person would need to be trained in media in terms of how to respond and that person would be responsible for communicating out, so you don't have multiple people within the City sending out different types of communications because that's normally where a lot of the conflicts come. Ms. Lathan said that may be something we might want to consider in your recommendations that Councilman Milling asked you to write up. Councilman Gardner said he wanted to echo what Councilwoman Elaine was saying. He said she wants a different way of communication, but we have 3 or 4 different ways now and we need to use them all and when we put information out they need to go to every one of them. Ms. Lisa Rock said the information she sent out went out on the City website, it went on Facebook, it went to all our traditional media partners, all the tv and radio stations, all the newspapers, it went on the email and text services that DDRA had and the SeeClickFix. Ms. Rock said the same message was sent through all those channels. She said there was a period during the storm that she could not post to the website, so at some point the website was not necessarily as updated as those other methods. Ms. Rock said if she could not email something out to the press, she texted it to them when internet service was not available.

CITY MANAGER/COUNCIL PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT

Mr. Garland said we had Council members and staff that got rather heated during the hurricane coverage. He said he may need to put something in place that governs our professional code of conduct that they would agree to abide by. Mr. Garland said he knows it was a stressful time for everybody, but they need to be in some type of basic agreement that there's a social contract by the positions that we hold that we hold ourselves to a higher level than how they conducted themselves during this storm. Mr. Garland asked Council if they were alright with this and they said "Yes".

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – MR. GARLAND

Ms. Rock said the Comprehensive Plan for the City as set up in State Law for us to have zoning is that we must have a comprehensive plan. She said it has nine pieces and so many pieces have to be updated every five years. She said every 10 years we must update the whole thing. Ms. Rock said she's put together a request for proposals to get cost estimates, but she hasn't put it out there yet. Mr. Garland asked if there was a component of it that goes to the Planning Commission first. Ms. Rock said, "Yes". She said once you put it out you get a contractor or somebody that will develop the full plan. She said Vismor & Associates did the full in 2007. Mr. Garland said Vismor did an update for us in 2012. Ms. Rock said that was an update, but the full plan needs to be redone because we're at the 10 year mark. Ms. Rock said the consultant or whoever we get to do the plan writes it and they present it and it goes through the Planning Commission. She said the Planning Commission will host all the public hearings, then they will approve it, send it to Council and they will pass it. Mr. Garland asked Council if they have seen the document they are talking about because some of them look confused. Councilwoman Reed said she is not confused, but she thought she and Howard had already talked about this. Mr. Garland said over the years, especially after the death of Mr. Phil Goff he spoke with Ms. Lathan about helping us develop different components of this (the housing model & population model). Mr. Garland said given light of what's happened the last few months he doesn't know how Council want to proceed. He said this is something that we must do. He said State Law says we must update this and it must be a part of our planning document and we must submit it for approval through the Planning Commission and have public hearings on it. He said his feeling is that we work on this to where they feel comfortable with something they are going to put out. Councilwoman Reed said, "The look is, what changed"? Mr. Garland said we must update it every 10 years. Councilwoman Reed said I thought that what we were working on. Mr. Garland said there's been different components of it over the years starting in 2014 that Ms. Lathan had

been updating for some of the grant work she had been doing for us. Mr. Garland said there's been no formal proposal that's been put together that would be put out for bid. Councilwoman Reed said, "however that is, but you are indicating that something has happened to stop you from going forth with what you said". Mr. Garland said, "No, no, no, I just said what's happened the last few months where we use to just say, ok so and so do this and ya'll would vote on it and say ok". He said when we had this brought up about the RIA application in July and then we went through that whole situation I'm just saying things may be different now because of what happened over the summer. Councilwoman Reed and Baccus both said they don't understand what would be different. Councilman Milling said we obviously see that there is some economic development, downtown development is going on in Hartsville. He said we have been invited tomorrow to go to Sumter, so obviously something is going on there. Councilman Milling said his understanding is that Hartsville has somebody who is a professional and trying to make determination about what can be done to help small communities. Councilman Milling said our last economic development plan said something like you need to annex because the City itself is too small. He said that doesn't tell us anything, we all know we need to annex. Councilman Milling said what we need is some consulting group that has the expertise to come in and not only say you need, but this is how you get it. He said we have to spend $20,000-$25,000, but he would like for us to start checking around and see who is competent and who has come up with good plans for cities in similar situations like us. He said he thinks we need some professionals to come in and make suggestions for our situation and tell us how to go about doing it. Mayor Hines said there was a comprehensive plan that the City paid $25,000-$50,000 for and she asked Mr. Garland if he knows where that plan is. Mayor Hines said it talked about economic development of downtown and what we could do to revive downtown. She said it was put on a shelf and never used. That was money wasted. Mayor Hines suggested that if Mr. Garland can find that one, let's look at that one first to see if there will be a difference in it. Mr. Garland said there's been half a dozen plans that have been done whether it was Vismor or Lathan. Mayor Hines said it was farther back than that. She said it was the one we paid $50,000 for before Ms. Lathan ever got here. Councilwoman Reed said she heard that we paid for somebody to do a comprehensive plan and we didn't take it, so they went to another city and they're doing good with it. Mayor Hines said a comprehensive plan was done a long time ago after Belk left and there was a man that lived in Virginia from this area. He wrote a story and posted it in the News & Press. He thanked Darlington for their comprehensive plan because it worked in this small area

in Virginia. Mr. Garland asked if the plan was from the 80's? He said Mary Demetrious had a plan done in 1987 or 1988 and there was another plan done in 1999 by Ben Boozer. Mr. Garland said this is not the same thing. He said what we're talking about here is the actual State Law that says you must have a Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Rock said it specifically targets transportation, population and housing. Mr. Garland said that's what he was talking about what he and Ms. Lathan were working on. Councilwoman Bruce said it seems like the guy that did the one for Hartsville was an effective comprehensive plan so why haven't we reached out to them. Ms. Rock said the plan is tailored to our population numbers and census information. Councilwoman Bruce asked why we weren't reaching out for information because somebody said we don't know who we can find to do a comprehensive plan for us. Mayor Hines said Mr. Garland will give you a copy of the one we already have. Councilman Gardner said he was going to echo what Councilpersons Milling and Bruce said. Councilman Gardner said the guy that they used for their comprehensive plan is the same guy that did the Zion Development in Mt. Pleasant. Councilman Gardner said if that guy will give us the opportunity, he seems to have a successful track record with the two places he's familiar with which is Hartsville & Mt. Pleasant. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So, if I'm listening to what Mr. Garland just said, you just said that you and Ms. Lathan are working on a comprehensive plan or was working on it". Mr. Garland said they've looked at it in probably 18 or 20 months and they put it down in 2017 and agreed to go back and look at it at a later date, but it hasn't been looked at during that time. Ms. Lathan said it's been about 6 months. Mr. Garland said it's got to be done, but there's something more important that needs to be talked about and that's the storm water project update. Councilwoman Baccus said, "Ok, so if ya'll already got one that ya'll working on and it's already in motion, why not complete it if it's already in motion"? Mr. Garland said the information she was putting together was updates for our housing and population. Mr. garland said that was never done and it was never presented in ant formal way; it was just more or less to help us with grant applications and eventually it would be included as part of a comprehensive plan. Councilwoman Baccus said, "Then if you already got it in motion, shouldn't you continue with it"? Councilman Segars said, "I think we need to find a Dan Vismor or somebody that does those sorts of things". Councilman Gardner said, "Ervin Engineering". Councilwoman Bruce said, "Well, you got a guy that's got a proven track record seems like". Mr. Garland said, "I don' think Ervin Engineering does comprehensive plans. Councilpersons Bruce and Gardner said the Hartsville guy seems to have the expertise on the subject. Councilwoman Reed said, "So what you're saying

now is whatever you all were working on you're going to start new". Councilwoman Reed said, "We're getting a new plan and asked Lisa if she was doing that"? Ms. Rock said, "We would be hiring, but we would be bidding this out, so Ms. Lathan can certainly apply, I would think". Ms. Rock said no matter who we get to do the actual writing of the comprehensive plan, we're going to have to get numbers and data from staff members that we've already collected. Mayor Hines asked Mr. garland how far did he get on the one with Ms. Lathan-how many pages"? Mr. Garland and Ms. Lathan said about 12 pages. Councilwoman Baccus said, "I don't see any point in stopping what you already got in motion to start over again. Councilwoman Reed said, "Whatever you're doing is gathering information to other people, right"? Mr. Garland said this is not policy, it's numbers, trends. Mr. Garland said this is the type of document that we need, but if you want something else. He said someone was talking about a downtown development document, but it's not the same thing. Mayor Hines said, "I said that, but I want you to see if you can find the old plan that we have". Mr. Garland said it needs to be understood that if you're doing a downtown development strategy or one for the By-Pass, it's not the same thing. Councilwoman Reed said, "So right now we're under a State obligation to be able to put a comprehensive plan that's specific to transportation, population and some other thing that you said and that is what we need to start with that". Councilwoman Reed said, "You and Ms. Lathan were working on one, but now because of whatever went on in July or whatever, you're saying you want to take a different direction". Mr. Garland said, "I just opened that up for ya'll to talk about". Mayor Hines said, "I think you need to continue on with it since you done started". Councilman Segars said, "I've got a problem with that. Based on what's happened over the last year and a half or so I don't see how the City can continue working with a vendor, an employee, an associate, whatever you want to call it, that's threatened to sue us three times over issues that she was not really happy about and I don't know how we can continue going forward with that". Ms. Lathan asked for a point of clarification. Ms. Lathan asked, "What vendor are you talking about specifically"? Councilman Segars said, "Ms. Lathan". Ms. Lathan said, "That is not true, that is not factual". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Let's state the facts; you asked to get sued because what you did was illegal". Councilman Segars asked, "What are you talking about"? Councilwoman Baccus said, "Oh, now you don't know". Councilwoman Reed said, "We done been threatened so many times by so many people, why are we pointing her out"? Councilman Milling said let's decide what we want to do. Councilman Milling said we've got an economic development plan that we might want to consider and then we have another plan. He asked how

much benefit we get from the comprehensive plan that we're required to prepare? Mr. Garland it helps us with grant applications. Councilwoman Reed told Councilman Segars she gets the feeling that he doesn't like or think we should deal with a vendor that has threatened to sue us. Councilwoman Reed said, "Because we are elected, we are a government organization and I don't see where we could just blanket say that we cannot deal with a vendor because they threatened to sue us". She said, "And if that's not written somewhere because there are several people that she knows that have threatened to sue this City and we are still dealing with them". Councilwoman Reed said, "I don't want us to set that kind of precedent". Councilman Segars said a statement was made in a Council meeting one night after Bryant had cleaned up the railroad bed over behind the County Library. Councilman Segars said, "She made a comment that she would sue the City and Bryant if that ditch eroded". Ms. Lathan asked, "Who made that comment"? Councilman Segars said, "You did". Ms. Lathan said, "I don't think I did". Councilman Segars said, "You did it in Council meeting". Councilwoman Bruce asked if there's a lawsuit out there? Councilman Segars said, "No, she threatened the City". Councilwoman Baccus asked what Council meeting that was because she want to read it for herself". Councilwoman Bruce said, "So, there's an intent from Lathan Consulting Corp. to sue the City of Darlington, is that out there"? Councilman Segars said, "She made that statement". (Everybody is talking all at once) Councilwoman Baccus said, "That's an accusation and she wants to read it for herself". Ms. Lathan said, "There's such a thing called slander". Councilwoman Bruce said, "We don't want to talk about slander". Councilman Gardner asked, "Has a lawyer written us about a lawsuit"? Mr. Garland said we received a letter from Wukela Law Firm protesting the bid process for the RIA Grant. Councilman Gardner asked, "Who do they represent"? City Attorney Etheridge said Ms. Lathan, but it was just asking about the procurement process. Councilman Milling said, "Let's go to Item #7 and Councilwoman Bruce said, "Don't sweep it under the rug". Councilwoman Bruce said if somebody bring something out and she's sitting in the room (Ms. Lathan) and if you're making accusations, you've got to have facts behind it. Councilwoman Bruce asked about the letter and Mr. Garland said it was included in the City Manager's update whatever month it happened. (Everybody is talking all at once)

SOUTHWEST DARLINGTON STORM WATER PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Garland said the contractor submitted a traffic plan last Thursday for W. Broad Street which is the next work area. He said SCDOT put out a blanket

stop on all rights-of-way during the hurricane which was just lifted today. Mr. Garland said with the plan being submitted by Landsdown until last Thursday, DOT is not going to give them permission to work on W. Broad Street until they finish the concrete and asphalt work on Pearl Street. The contractor submitted a new work schedule for a completion date of January 2019 which is unacceptable. Mr. Garland said we've had multiple issues with the contractor (there were some issues on our side too). The contractor submitted multiple change orders and some of them totaled over $70,000, which happens to be close to the amount of money we saved on Fleming Street. Mr. Garland said the thing we have to weigh is that we had delays on Pearl Street, delays because of Southern 500, delays because of Hurricane Florence and delays because of when they actually got in the ground working on Pearl Street there were waterlines that were not identified that Hanna Engineering submitted. He said there is going to be some type of extension given to Landsdown because right now, they have to be finished by October 8th and there's no way they are going to be finished by then. Ms. Lathan said she talked to the president of the construction company today and everything that Howard said is correct. Ms. Lathan said she sent DOT an email late this afternoon asking for a specific date in which DOT would release the constraint that they have. Ms. Lathan said she should have an answer from DOT tomorrow. She said because of the stoppage, he's moving on the farther end, so he doesn't lose any more time. She said she forwarded an email to Howard and what they need to do is schedule a meeting with the engineer, so they can sit down face-to-face and get those work orders resolved. Ms. Lathan said she did submit the final pay from RIA today, so we are making some progress. Councilwoman Reed asked, "What do they need to do on Pearl Street"? Ms. Lathan said it's like a temporary patch. Councilwoman Bruce asked who oversees the day-to-say operation and how they make decisions on how they are going to change? Mr. Garland and Ms. Lathan both said, "They (DOT) own the road". Councilwoman Bruce said, "So, we have no leeway on any of that"? Ms. Lathan said we call, we talk to them and we've already developed a working relationship and if they understand it's having a significant impact, they do what they can". Councilwoman Bruce said, "when they want to". Ms. Lathan said, "No, it's not when they want to. We've had good working relationships with SC DOT". Ms. Lathan said it's us telling our story in an acceptable and realistic way, so they understand it is having a significant adverse impact on the project. Ms. Lathan said that gives them the wherewith all to see to approve us closing Broad Street sooner rather than later. Councilwoman Bruce asked, "why would they leave an area unfinished and go someplace else"? Ms. Lathan said, "That's not how it works. The area

should not have been left in that condition". Councilwoman Reed said, "To close Broad Street is not going to cause any problems". Mr. Garland said, "The thing is, Landsdown should have submitted the traffic control plan before the project started". Councilman Segars asked, "What is the construction company's reason why they haven't finished Pearl Street"? Mr. Garland said they told them at one time that they wanted to do all their asphalt work at one time. Mr. Garland said there's an extreme level of frustration in dealing with this company. Councilman Segars said, "don't write them any more check until they fix it". Mr. Garland said the engineer told him today that he anticipated a change order of $100,000 from Landsdown for the work on Anhow and Coker Streets. Mr. Garland said he was going to suggest that we get with our City Attorney to go and work on the current storm drain infrastructure that exists on that property. He said there was one easement that they didn't get which was at the corner of Coker and Anhow Streets. Mr. Garland said the change order will be submitted in the next few days. He said we can't afford that type of change order based on the slim margins that we have on this project. Councilman Gardner asked if we have a go around for the easement issue? Mr. Garland said we own both streets, so we can go in the street. Mr. Garland said the contractor is saying that the cost to do that is estimated at $100,000, but they have already bid this into the price of the project to get this done. Mr. Garland said the contractor is worried about being fined per day because there's a $500 fine per day. He said we are going to give them a three to four (3-4) week extension because of the hurricane, the race, Pearl Street and DOT. Councilman Segars asked, "Why do we have such large change orders"? Ms. Lathan said some contractors do it. Ms. Lathan said we ended up saving about $70,000 with some of the changes in and around crossing Pearl Street. She said change orders were required and it could be coincidental that his change orders came back at $70,000. Ms. Lathan said, "What the engineers, grant manager and the City Manager is required to do is to scrub every one of those change orders and if the dollars, quantity and size doesn't add up, it doesn't get approved".

Councilman Milling gave a summary of what Council discussed:
1 - He said Council talked about how they would like for Mr. Garland to contact DOT and try to work with them on fixing some of their drainage problems with their street so that we can have more success with what we do.

2 - Have Mr. Garland find out what software systems are available and what the cost would be for tracking and mapping our water & sewer system.

3 - Council would like for Mr. Garland at least, explore a staff engineer. Perhaps find out who the cities close to us that have an engineer; the size of the cities; what budgets are needed and what size general budget the cities have.

4 - Who has an HR Department and what's the cost on operating it. How many people would be needed to staff an HR Department.

5 - Write up his recommendations with respect to the Code of Conduct and any other recommendations he has and send them to them for their review.

6 - Have Mr. Garland give them his view of what his job description is so Council can look at it and evaluate it, so they will have some idea of what Howard thinks he's supposed to be doing.

Councilman Milling said, "We've got to go forward with this Comprehensive Plan, but I'd also like for us to do something in connection with seeing what other towns are doing with respect to an economic development plan". Councilman Milling said to give Howard a reasonable time to get these type things answered.

Councilwoman Baccus said that the vac truck doesn't benefit the citizens off Joe Louis Blvd. because they have ditches. She said she don't think those ditches have been cleaned out since the City put them in so it's time for those ditches to be cleaned out.

Councilman Gardner said he would like to make sure all the members who are supposed to be on the Grievance Committee are still there to be put into action. He said he thinks this will help to comfort some of his fellow councilmembers. Mayor Hines asked if the employees know that the Grievance Committee is back in place? Mr. Garland said since it was put in place in 2017, three (3) people have left. Council agreed that the Grievance Committee needs to be updated.

Mayor Hines said we need a new administrative building. She told Mr. Garland he needs to be with us because that's extra money we're paying for him staying down there at the admin building. She said everybody needs to be together.

Upon motion of Councilwoman Baccus, seconded by Councilman Gardner, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY - OCTOBER 2, 2018

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Lee Andrews, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Ms. Anna DeWitt, Ms. Rosena James, Mr. Steve Abbott, Ms. Karen Carroll, Mr. Chuck McNeil, Ms. Rhonda Brown and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning News.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Gloria Hines did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, Seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus to approve the Minutes of September 4, 2018. All approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Hines said Item 8D (Playground Equipment Bid) was sent out to them last week. She said she got a call from Mr. Garland yesterday to take it off the agenda, but when she talked with Mr. Lee Andrews he said we have two different bids going; They have the B.A. Gary Complex/Wells Stadium area for playground equipment and they have playground equipment for Siskron Street. Mayor Hines said the bids are not in for Siskron, so they can't vote on that tonight, but they do have the bids for the playground equipment at Virgil Wells Stadium Area. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the amended meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed. All approved the motion.**

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said the DDRA partners with Darlington Recreation for "Scare on the Square" on Thursday October 25, 2018 from 4:30 – 6:00 PM. She said churches, civic groups and businesses don't have to be located on the Square to join the fun. She said just contact her office by October 15th to register for a booth. Mrs. Rock said this event has grown from approximately 800 kids the first year to approximately 1200 kids showed up. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA will hold a business costume contest on Halloween (October 31st). She said any businesses participating are asked to call her office, so they can get their photo featured on our website and in the News & Press. She said the DDRA is also inviting businesses to network and learn about the DDRA programs and give feedback for future projects at their final Members' Breakfast on Wednesday October 31, 2018 at Takis's Diner. Breakfast is provided for member businesses at no charge and a small donation of $5.00 towards the meal is asked for nonmember businesses. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA will host its annual Shop Small Downtown Open House on Thursday November 29, 2018 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM on the Public Square with Darlington Recreation, DJ Danny Lockemy, Santa Claus and Snow. She said businesses around the Square are invited to stay open late and others can have a vendor booth on the Square. She said they can submit giveaway items, or provide flyers, coupons, or promotional items to distribute. Mrs. Rock said they will hand out 200 Shop Small tote bags thanks to American Express who sponsors the event with those goodies inside. Mrs. Rock said they will have their annual Shop Darlington promotion between Thanksgiving and Christmas, where residents are encouraged to shop at Darlington businesses for a chance to win $100 fuel card. She said they will give away 3-$100 fuel cards. Mrs. Rock said all you have to do is shop at 5 Darlington businesses (not including gas stations and not pharmacies as far as prescriptions).

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – MS. LISA ROCK

Ms. Harriet Hobbs was unable to attend the meeting, so she asked Ms. Lisa Rock to give the update for the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Rock said the "Toast of Darlington" will be held this Thursday from 6:00-9:00 PM on the Public Square. She said the venue had to be moved this year due to Hurricane Florence, but the response has been excellent, and they are

expecting a wonderful evening with beautiful weather and delicious food. Tickets are $35.00 in advance and $40.00 at the gate.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL (5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Ms. Deondre Ketter – Ms. Ketter, Executive Director of the Place of Healing located at 712 Pearl Street is a home for teen pregnant moms and sex trafficking victims. She said she's been working on opening this home for about three years now and she's finally on the up and up with getting things installed like the fire sprinkler system which is not for the City, but for the State. Ms. Ketter said she got a call today from her fire sprinkler installer and he said to cap the system in the City is $1,500. She said she has had one fundraiser this year which raised approximately $4,000 and those funds helped her install the fire sprinkler system. Ms. Ketter said at this time they don't have $1,500 and she doesn't know what to do. She said this is the next step toward them opening. Ms. Ketter said the community of the City of Darlington has been very supportive. She said this is a need in the community because she's had many girls call her needing homes and needing space for them and their babies. She said they are coming into Darlington to help support the Pee Dee area and to help revitalize our children; to help them realize that there is support and help for them. Ms. Ketter said although they have been involved in sex trafficking or involved with having a baby at a young age, there are people there to support them. She said they want to help restore them and help them realize who they are before they go out to be citizens in our society. Ms. Ketter said she's come before Council to ask for their assistance in any way, shape or form. Ms. Ketter said they are currently seeking their 501 (c) 3 status and IRS is working with them to get it processed. She said once they get that, the ball will be rolling, but today she was told about this and it shocked her. She said she talked with the City Manager and he told her to come to the meeting tonight. Mayor Hines said our ordinance states that we can't give out any money. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul what is it that's extra that Ms. Ketter has to do that she just can't connect with the water? Mr. Kinsaul said, "She wants a new tap put in which the $1,500 won't pay what we will spend". Mayor Hines asked, "She can't use the old tap"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "They said they want a different one or a bigger one". Ms. Ketter said her understanding is it's because of the piping around the house; the piping is too small for the system. Mayor Hines asked, "Are the ones who's putting the system in for you, they're saying that"? "It's not you objecting to it, they're saying that"? Ms. Ketter said, "Yes ma'am" and it's been back and

forth with who's right and what's going on. Ms. Ketter said she talked to the City Manager and he said, "Well, that's the price we charge". Mr. Garland said, "I can't waive that, but if you want to vote to waive it, you can, but by ordinance I can't waive that fee". Councilwoman Elaine Reed asked, "Is there no other way; Is this the only company"? Ms. Ketter said they are approved and they have to have certain licenses by the State to be able to install it, so right now the only company around here is Fire International that has the approving from the State to install fire sprinkler systems. Councilwoman Reed said, "We just got to think about this". Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce asked if we can just take this for information tonight"? Mayor Gloria Hines said, "We'll receive this as information". Councilwoman Elaine Reed said, "We'll find a solution".

Ms. Rhonda Brown – Storm Water

Ms. Brown said she came as a resident tonight because she has gotten a lot of questions from people in the community about storm water and where the community sits, where we are on the storm water plan and what are the long-term plans for that. Ms. Brown asked Council if they could take a look for the Oakdale area, Woodcrest area, the houses across the street from Oakdale and also in the Country Club and give them an idea of what is the storm water plan for those areas and also where they sit in terms of looking at some of the issues. She said it's been a couple of weeks after the storm and there are areas that still have standing water (both in the Country Club & Woodcrest areas). Ms. Brown said, "I just want to say thank you to not only the Council, but the Fire Department, the Police Department for all of the work before, during and after the storm". Mayor Hines chimed in and said the Water Department and Sanitation Departments as well. Mr. Garland said he had a meeting Monday with the County Administrator and addressed some of the issues as it relates to Oakdale and the Country Club area and he hopes to have a better report on this at the next meeting. He said he hope to be meeting with Sonoco in the near future about the Presswood Lake Dam and what it means for those neighborhoods.

Anna DeWitt

Ms. Anna DeWitt said she is here tonight to voice her concern on the posting of the agenda for tonight's meeting. She said she did some investigating yesterday, so if any of the information is wrong, please feel free to correct her. Ms. DeWitt said she was given information that the agenda was posted at 12 noon yesterday and as required by Darlington City ordinance chapter 2, Article 3, Section 2-83, which states that the agenda is to be publicly posted

by the Clerk Treasurer by noon of the day preceding the meeting; however, it was changed and reposted at 4:45 PM. If the City has decided by State Law which states the agenda must be posted 24 hours before the start of the meeting, then reposting of the meeting at 4:45 PM is lawful; however, the second part of the law reads "an agenda for regular scheduled meetings must be posted on a bulletin board in a publicly accessible place at an office or meeting of a public body and on a public website maintained by the body if the public body has one at least 24 hours prior to such meeting. She also states that no items may be added to the agenda without an additional 24-hour public notice which must be made to the same manner as the original posting. She said the City of Darlington does maintain a website and the agenda was not posted as of 9:00 AM this morning which does not comply with State Law. She said the agenda was posted on the board outside the courtroom in the hallway which is not accessible to the public between the hours of 5:00 PM and 8:00 AM. Ms. DeWitt said our 9:00 to 5:00, 5 day a week citizen would have no opportunity to read the agenda unless they were to take time off from work. Ms. DeWitt said you have 28 days to create, amend and present an agenda. She said waiting until the final hour to do so only makes them believe you are trying to hide facts or actions from the citizens. She said public officials who disregard city ordinances or city policies cannot turn around and expect people of their own town to be law abiding citizens. Mayor Hines said, "Ms. DeWitt, in all clarity "D" under agenda item #8 was not changed". Mayor Hines said, "what's going on is this, we have two playgrounds to deal with, one on Siskron Street and one on the Virgil Wells Stadium area. Mayor Hines said the bids are ready for one area but not ready for the other area. She said that's why it was like that. Mayor Hines said it wasn't fair to leave that one off because we didn't have the bid for the other. Mayor Hines said, "We're not hiding anything, and it was not changed". She said they are voting on that one and when the other bids come in we'll vote on that one. Ms. DeWitt said it was not put on the City's website, which is State Law. Mayor Hines said, "I'm not in charge of that". Ms. DeWitt said she came up last night at 7:00 and she couldn't come in and view the agenda because it's not publicly accessible. She said if it was put on the front or side door where she could come up and view it at night or in the evening, that would be fine, and it wasn't put on the website until after 9:00 AM this morning. Mayor Hines said the agenda was changed a little more than 24 hours ahead of time. Mayor Hines said nothing really changed, it's just that we can't vote on the other one because the bids are not in. Ms. DeWitt said she was concerned why it wasn't posted on the website because that's required by State Law. Mayor Hines said

again, “I don’t have control over that”. Councilwoman Reed said, “So we didn’t have a problem with the fact that last month’s agenda was emailed”. Ms. DeWitt said, “I don’t know how it gets to ya’ll, but the public only gets it through the website or if they’re allowed to come in here from 8:00 – 5:00. Ms. DeWitt said State Law says if you maintain a website it must be posted 24 hours before 6:30 tonight for the public. Councilman Milling thanked Ms. DeWitt for bringing this to our attention and said we will address it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2018-15 SALE OF LOCHEND ROAD TO AUDDIE BROWN FOR $5,000

Mayor Hines said when Council brought this up there were some things that needed to be changed on it. Mr. Garland said we added one more sentence to it which is “any legal expenses for transferring Lochend Road back to the City of Darlington shall be paid by Auddie C. & Susan D Brown, LLC. Mayor Hines asked if this was satisfactory with everybody. City Attorney Kevin Etheridge said he believes that was the change Councilman Milling wanted. Councilman Milling said he just wanted to make sure that it was always in a position where it was open to the public for use and if for some reason any of Auddie Brown’s entities stop maintaining it and title came back and then the City would maintain it. Mayor Hines asked if that was sufficient and Councilman Milling said, “Yes ma’am”. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve second reading on Ordinance 2018-15 Sale of Lochend Road to Auddie Brown for $5,000. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion**.

NEW BUSINESS

A) PEE DEE COALITION PROCLAMATION

Mayor Hines read a proclamation proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Mayor Hines presented the proclamation to Ms. Ellen Hamilton. Ms. Hamilton said they have a Domestic Violence Awareness walk coming up on the 20th at 10:00 AM on the Public Square. She said they have an office that just opened at 105 Orange Street. She said if you know of anyone that needs their services, please send them her way. A picture was taken of the Mayor presenting the proclamation to Ms. Hamilton.

B) MR. CHUCK MCNEIL – PDRTA – SATURDAY BUS SERVICE PETITION

Mr. McNeil said when he came before Council last month he shared with them signatures of a few hundred people that expressed a desire to have the DART bus that runs Monday-Friday, to run for four hours on Saturday. Mr. McNeil said he presented the local cost estimate to provide that service and for a year it was $2,800. He said the balance would be paid through federal and state funds that PDRTA can leverage. Mr. McNeil said last month he was asked when the bus would run, and he wanted to defer to do some market research and who better to do the research with than the folks that use the service. Mr. McNeil said they did a survey and the question asked was, "what four-hour time block did they prefer"? (They were given several choices). He said the vast majority selected 8:00 AM to 12 noon. Mr. McNeil recommends should Council wish to support this, that they would operate it on Saturdays between the hours of 8:00 AM and 12 noon. He further recommends that should City Council wish to provide this service, that it be done so as a "Pilot Project". He said they would need some time to get the word out and market the service to the community and would suggest that we wouldn't start before November. Mr. McNeil said all of the services that they provide need time to build up the confidence in the riding public and he propose that we run it through next June. He said the benefit to that would be some savings – 8 months would be approximately $1,850. Mr. McNeil said they can assess the service over 8 months and as they get into the budget season next Spring, they will have a pretty good idea of whether or not this is a worthwhile endeavor on the part of the City to continue to support this service. Mayor Hines said she talked to Mr. Garland to see what fund we could get the money from. Mr. Garland said it would come from the contingency fund and like Mr. McNeil mentioned, it would be on a trial basis and if the numbers don't back it up we just won't do it next year. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the PDRTA Saturday bus service petition for an 8-month period at $1,850. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion.** Mayor Hines said it has been properly moved and seconded that we receive the PDRTA petition for $1,850 for a year based on the "Pilot Program" and if it does not work out, we won't do it next year. **Councilman Milling told Mayor Hines she said for a year, but he would like to make it from November to June. All voted in favor of the motion.** Mr. Garland told Mr. McNeil whoever the new Director is, have them come back in the Spring and give us a report on the numbers. Mr. McNeil said, "Absolutely, and if they don't come, I'll come back and give a report". Mr. Garland asked Mr. McNeil how he was

going to market this in the community? Mr. McNeil said that's why he asked for delaying this until at least a month so that they'll have time to do newspaper notifications and get flyers out. Mayor Hines asked Mr. McNeil if they will be able to start in November and he said, "Yes".

C) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-17 ANNEXATION OF 110 NEZ PERCE DRIVE

Mayor Hines said a new house has been built at 110 Nez Perce Drive and they want to annex into the City. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-17 Annexation of 110 Nez Perce Drive at the request of Mr. & Mrs. James Ivey, Jr. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

D) PLAYGROUND BID (OLD LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD)

Mr. Andrews provided Council with the bid estimate and a drawing which showed the layout of the equipment. Mr. Lee Andrews said when they were trying to move this around yesterday, he didn't expect it to be that big of a deal for Siskron Street property and he apologized for that. He said he has the Virgil Wells bid and will have bids for the other areas by the end of this month. He said he had given Council the bid from Bliss and this is for the Old Little League Field. He said they have already taken the building down. Mr. Andrews said they will do the rest in house as far as the fencing, etc. He said they will recycle whatever they can and use it somewhere else. He said the bid received from Bliss Products was in the amount of $46,904.75. Mr. Andrews told Council the price included everything that they see on the drawing from the barrier, to the playground mulch, to the swing set and the three pieces of equipment. Councilman Milling said we've got a DuraMax Structure and then we've got something called the "Climb & Discover Cave" but he doesn't' see a picture on the diagram. Mr. Andrews said he thinks it's hooked to another piece of equipment. Councilman Milling said he's seen something that he would describe as a "Climb and Discover Cave" at a different City, but it doesn't look like it's on this diagram. Mr. Andrews said he will get clarification on that. Mr. Andrews said everything is handicap accessible and they will install the equipment for us. Councilman Segars said, "You mentioned mulch, this is not going to be a synthetic bouncy type" and Mr. Andrews said, "No, that's a little bit more expensive". Councilman Segars asked, "If we approve this tonight, would it be to our advantage to not order this until we approve the other playground as far as freight, shipping, installation, etc". Mr. Andrews said if we get it from the

same company that very well could be a possibility that we could get a break on shipping. Mr. Andrews said he's got two companies sending in quotes for the Siskron Street property. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Andrews if he had just that one bid and he said, "Yes and they are on State contract". Councilwoman Reed told Mr. Andrews he did a good job and thanked him for that. Mr. Andrews said he thinks this is the start of something that's going to snowball into something really good. He said ballfields have been on the front of the agenda, but this is something that's needed. He said if we could get satellite parks in each neighborhood and then one big park that everybody is going to want to come to, we'll turn some heads. Councilwoman Bruce said they were supposed to have an opening ceremony for the Little League football and wanted to know if they rescheduled it. Mr. Andrews said they rescheduled the pictures for this Saturday, but they are not doing the dedication of the field because they have ordered signage and some gates for the field. He said as soon as those get put up they will set a day they can go out and celebrate that field. **Councilwoman Reed made a motion to accept the playground bid for the Old Little League Field from Bliss Products in the amount of 46,904.95. Councilwoman Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Gloria Hines said she would like to give The City accolades for a fine job (Police Department, Fire Department). She said when Matthew came, you went way out, but this time you went further. Mayor Hines said the vac truck was excellent sucking up the water. She said the complaint now is the mosquitoes. Mayor Hines thanked the Fire Department, Water Department & Sanitation Department. She said everybody worked hand-in-hand. She also thanked Ms. Rhonda and Mr. Leroy.

Mr. Garland said the County is offering a tour to any elected officials who would like to take a tour of the courthouse to look at the problems that they have on Wednesday, October 10th from 3:00 – 5:00 PM.

Councilman Bryant Gardner said Councilman Robert Kilgo and Councilwoman Joyce Thomas will host a town hall meeting on October 15th at the Darlington County Voter Registration and Election Commission Annex Building at 135 Cashua Street, Darlington, SC at 5:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and answer questions about the condition of the courthouse and the upcoming referendum about the Darlington County Courthouse. All citizens are welcome to come and

participate. Councilman Gardner said they found out today that Darlington County has been designated a disaster area by FEMA, so residents can call for assistance. They can apply or call at disasterassistance.gov or 800-621-3362.

REMINDERS

Tuesday November 6, 2018 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting
Darlington City Council

Mayor Hines said we need to go into executive session to discuss contract vehicle lease Fire Department & Codes Department; Municipal Court Personnel: Associate Judge (Darlington City Council May or May not Vote after closed executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed to go into Executive Session at 7:21 PM to discuss contract vehicle lease Fire Department, Codes Department; Municipal Court Personnel: Associate Judge (Darlington City Council may or may not vote after closed executive session. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion.

(5 Minute Break)

Executive Session ended at 8:23 PM.

Mayor Hines said in executive session Council talked about contract vehicle lease for the Fire Department and Codes Enforcement and they talked about the Associate Judge. Mayor Hines said we'll get a truck for the Fire Department and maybe when we do the budget session next year we can get two more. **Councilwoman Sheila Baccus made a motion that we purchase the 2018 Ford F150 truck for the Fire Department for $33,405. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion that we purchase the 2018 Chevrolet Silverado Crew Cab LT for the Codes Department at a price of $35,990. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

Councilman John Milling said we would like to express our appreciation to Judge D. Barrett Curtis for her prior service as Associate Judge for Municipal Court for the City of Darlington for the services she has provided to us and to our citizens. Councilman Milling said we wish her well with disappointment that she has decided to retire from that position. Councilman Milling said he would like to nominate Mr. Taft Giles, Jr. who is currently serving and will continue to serve as Municipal Judge in Timmonsville as well as serving as Municipal Judge in Florence. Councilman Milling said Mr. Giles comes to us highly recommended and he appears to be well qualified. **Councilman Milling said he propose to have Judge Taft Giles, Jr. serve as our next Associate Judge. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

November 13, 2018

The Regular Meeting of Darlington City Council was held November 13, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall at 400 Pearl Street.

Present at the meeting: Mayor Gloria C. Hines, Councilpersons John Segars, Shelia Baccus, Carolyn Bruce, John Milling, Bryant Gardner and Elaine Reed. Also present was City Manager, Howard Garland, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Chief of Police, Kelvin Washington, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Mr. Freddie Kinsaul, Mr. Alex Gainey and a room full of citizens.

Copies of the agenda were faxed to The News & Press, The Morning News and the Hartsville Messenger with place, date and time of meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Hines.

PRAYER

Mr. Gardner gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2018 council meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce. All approved the motion.

Ms. Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2018 regular council meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce. All approved the motion.

DDRA UPDATE – MS. LISA ROCK

Ms. Lisa Rock stated that the DDRA will present is final grant award for 2018 of $1,000 to Palmetto Office furniture for façade improvements. To date the DDRA had awarded $7,000 to local businesses for improvements, and the projects connected with those grants have been improvements

totaling more than $170,000. Ms. Rock also stated the DDRA had approved another 5,000 for 2019. This incentive program would be a 50/50 match for business owners. It is the goal of the DDRA to see businesses grow and the program is doing just that. The DDRA will host a series of events for the holidays, Shop Small November 2, 5pm – 8pm at your local businesses. They will have 200 tote bags filled with local business information and coupons to give out for this event. Market on the Square will host the Christmas Market December 15, 10am-2pm, at fellowship hall at Trinity United Methodist church located on Pearl Street. The DDRA will also be doing the Shop Darlington promotion where you shop at any Darlington business and with 5 receipts and an entry form you will be put in a drawing to win one of three $100 fuel cards.

CHAMBER UPDATE – MS. HARRIET

Ms. Harriett Hobbs stated the board had voted to have the Toast of Darlington moved from Oak Street to the public square due to circumstances beyond the chambers control. The feedback from having it downtown was great. Bethea Retirement home had brought a load of guests. The chamber held their annual planning meeting with these dates set, the Annual Chamber Banquet, February 28, 2019, the Spring Fling, Easter egg hunt, April 13, Bow Ties and Pearls, April 26, Freedom Fest, June 29 and the Toast of Darlington October 10. Ms. Hobbs stated that they will be doing an event this year called Light up Darlington. She hopes that downtown will look like a scene from a Hallmark movie on December 2. She said that someone had donated a 21-foot artificial Christmas tree and they plan to have that sitting on a platform painted by the Kiwanis club that will sit on the drained water fountain at the courthouse. This tree will be lite up on December 2. They will also have the Bradford trees lite up around the square and you can pay $100 to have one lite up in someone's honor or something they are thankful for. Also, on December 2 they will serve hot chocolate and cookies. Mayor Hines thanked Ms. Hobbs and her committee for bringing her vision to life.

CITIZENS WISHING TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

Ms. Andrea Knapp appeared before council and passed out a letter she read. The letter reads.

Council. I've lived in Darlington for 10 years and I love living here. I own businesses in this town. My kids and grandchildren live within a two-minute drive of my house. It's a place where I look forward to seeing these grandchildren grow up. I've seen and heard many things that surprise me but none so much as what has been happening the past few months. I admit I don't come to every council meeting because of my work schedule. Thankfully, Anna Dewitt records each meeting and I catch up when I get home. She does a great job at this and should be commended. As council members, you are all seated there because members of your communities voted you in. Each one of you. We trusted that you would do what you think is best for our city. Whether you all agree with each other or your citizens or not, you are there for the betterment of the community at large. We did not however, vote you in to see certain members act like children every month. We did not vote you in so that we could watch you bicker, make snide remarks and be just outrageously cruel to each other with back stabbing and small gang mentality every month. And trust me when I say that as a citizen, on this side of the bench you are sitting on? That's what each member of your communities are seeing. Time and time again. I'm also not the only person who has said this to you. In October there was a paid ad in the News and Press by Donald Gillard – a nonresident of the city. Mr. Gillard was upset that Councilwoman Bruce had voted for a 'white owned company' instead of a black owned company. He went on to pick fault at ONLY Councilwoman Bruce many times even though other members of council voted the same way. He mentioned race 15 times. As I mentioned earlier, you are all voted in by your community members to make the best choice there is. I believe that Councilwoman Bruce voted the way she thought would best help this town. I applaud her for that. Is Mr. Gillard saying that Councilwoman Bruce should have voted for the 'black female owned' company simply because SHE'S black and that Councilwoman Bruce should now be considered a 'sellout'? The overall takeaway from the ad was that because Lathan Consulting Corporation was owned by a black woman this should have been the only information needed to give her that vote. How are we, in 2018-TWENTY EIGHTEEN – even thinking that is acceptable? I personally don't care what color a person is, whether they are gay or straight, religious or not. If you are nice to me, I'm nice to you and you will

get treated the same way equally. As is the same for businesses. If you can do the job, are good for the town overall then whatever color you are should not even enter the equation. I won't even go into the accusations of bribery that he placed against councilwoman Bruce. How do you as a Mayor, how do you as fellow council members allow such derogatory, inflammatory and untrue statements be said against one of your fellow council members. How do you not publicly stand up for each other? How are you doing what's best for the community by allowing this rhetoric? By your lack of public statements denouncing his ad, you are showing business owners of this city – black AND white that they ARE viewed separately, that they are technically segregated. Again, this is 2018!!!! I know that these are Mr. Gillard's words, that this is his disgusting racial rhetoric, however, Councilwoman Baccus, and Mayor, I believe Mr. Gillard has worked with you in the past, representing you and campaigning for you, thus in my eyes and I would assume most of YOUR communities, he is linked with you. How are you not denouncing the things he is saying about a fellow council member. You don't distance yourselves from this man or his words. Instead, you further this racial garbage by sharing his posts on Facebook, like children. Your community sees it all. Do you agree with what he says? If so, you should be removed from your position. Mayor, back in 2017 you stated 'I thank all the voters, I'll help you, no matter where you live or what color you are, that is just the kind of person I am' And yet here you sit, sharing posts, allowing this man to make prejudicial statements against a fellow council woman and local businesses.

Mayor Hines stated that statement is false, and Ms. Knapp said it came from a direct quote from the New and Press. Mayor Hines says she can't help what the News and Press says.

Ms. Knapp continues with her letter.

Chevron Scott commented in this week's News and Press that the city has descended into the 'murky swamp' of divisive rhetoric filled with prejudice and racism. Your communities are reading this. Now November 2nd, Councilwoman Baccus, you posted on Facebook-not a city website-that you were hosting a community meeting; saying it was all for the citizens in Ward 1 and "all is welcomed". I live in Ward 1. YOU represent ME. As I said I can't get to most meetings that happen because of work. Anna Dewitt – a community member went to record the meeting and was kicked out. You said ALL were welcome. Why did you kick her out? As a resident of Ward 1

I was interested in what was being said. Unfortunately, because there were no official minutes taken, no recording, I have no clue what happened, what was discussed and how I could help this little town as you stated. Did you post a follow up on a public page for all your Ward to see what was discussed? Did you post anything on the City website? I for one didn't see one. So, if only the people who WENT to the meeting know what happened, tell me HOW the rest of the community is supposed to help and make this town better? How are you serving the community as a whole? I've said before, that for every positive thing that happens in Darlington, the Sweet Potato Festival, the Christmas lights, the Taste of Christmas, for everything that the Greater Chamber does, ALL of this gets overlooked and forgotten about when horrendous behavior like this, that we are seeing is accepted. All you've done is promote racial disharmony in this community. In this Pearl of the Pee Dee. Finally, all this saddens me so much but what brings tears to my eyes is that I am watching my grandchildren grow up and then seeing all this happening. They are growing up in a world where they are seeing this behavior from you. Adults. In 2018. The Community sees this and anyone, anywhere in the world with a computer can see this. You should be so ashamed of yourselves. So incredibly ashamed. What a legacy What a shame.

Mayor Hines thanks Ms. Knapp and moved on to the next to appear before council.

Ms. Gladys Jules appeared before council to discuss a Ward #1 community meeting held by Ms. Baccus. Ms. Jules opens with wanting to know who the young lady is recording the council meeting is. She was under the impression that she was associated with city council but now she is figuring out that she is not. Ms. Jules said that she had been coming to this meeting for a year now and everyone has been extremely difficult for her to sit through. She stated that the city services are terrible, and that Mayor and council are totally disrespected. She says its black and white, always has been and probably will always be, but what we need is order. She wanted to know if it was order for the City attorney to assist someone in making a presentation with help with legal terms. She needs to know how that is right, is he available to help the rest of them, is there nothing in the regulations preventing him to do so? She feels that the young lady that records our city meeting (Ms. Anna Dewitt) that by her actions at the Ward 1 community meeting held by Ms. Baccus, she feels entitled to these photographs and to make comments on them about council members and not have any

repercussions. She said what was wrong with Ms. Baccus not allowing Ms. Dewitt to come into the community meeting and record? She said she totally agreed with her decision because she lives in a community on H Avenue and most of them don't participate with things like that because of fear. She said that allowing her to come is saying don't say anything because your being recorded, and everyone should have a right to talk. Ms. Jules said she commends Shelia Baccus for having the community meeting and having their neighborhood cleaned up. She asks the city administrator, city council and the city attorney provide the citizens a training session on the operation of the ordnances for proper behavior during city council meetings. She feels we need active assistance during the meetings from our law enforcement because the meetings are that bad.

Ms. Rhonda Brown appeared before council concerning the drainage issues in the Oakdale and Country club community. She wanted to know if council had the time to discuss the issue or should she come back next month. Mayor Hines said she had spoken with Howard about the issue and she said there was some things she would like to do on Jessamine street and Chestnut street and that they need a camera and cutter because the lines are believed to be filled with roots preventing drainage. She believes this is the same thing that's happening in the Oakdale area and they need to have a workshop on that to see where they are going with that. Ms. Brown just wanted to make sure they were on the schedule to address the problems.

SECOND READING OF 110 NEZ PERCE STREET

Second Reading of Ordinance 2018-17, the annexation of 110 Nez Perce Drive. Motion by Mr. Milling to approve, seconded by Mr. Segars. All approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

a. **Sergeant Terrance Carroway Street Naming**

   Motion by Ms. Reed to submit application to the planning commission for approval of renaming Southern Pine Street to Sgt. T. Carroway Street. Seconded by Ms. Bruce, all in favor.

b. Sergeant Terrance Carroway Street, Playground Naming

Motion by Ms. Bruce to change the name the playground on Southern Pine Street to Terrance Carroway Playground. Seconded by Mr. Gardner, all in favor. Mr. Milling stated that it would be a good idea to have some sort of memorial marker put up as well to give people a reason why the park is named after Sgt. Carroway. The Mayor agreed and it's something that they do not have to vote on but just see that it is done.

c. Special Recognition in Honor of Sergeant Terrance Carroway

Mayor Hines stated that she had known Terrance Carroway all 52 years of his life. She said Terrance Carroway was a hero. He had courage, bravery and was a true leader never seeking recognition for anything he ever did. He was a genuine good person putting others first never asking for anything in return. Mayor Hines presented a key to the City of Darlington to Terrance Carroway, Jr as a reminder of what a wonderful man and mentor his daddy was to everyone. Ms. Carroway thanked the City for all they had done for her husband and their family. Ms. Carroway stated that with Terrance's death it was a needless sacrifice of one but has been and will be the catalyst of a movement, not just a moment. The legacy of Terrance Carroway will live on.

d. House of Refuge Funding Request – Tonya Flowers

Ms. Tonya Flowers with the House of Refuge appeared before council to request a donation of a $1,000. $500 will go toward the rental space in the RV/Boat Storage facility in Darlington for 6 months and the other $500 will go toward operational expenses. This space is to house a tractor trailer donation worth $30,000-$50,000 worth of merchandise. After discussion of available city funds for this request. Motion by Ms. Reed to give the House of Refuge $500. Seconded by Ms. Baccus. All in favor. City Attorney Kevin Etheridge said that he would give her the other $500 that she was seeking.

e. First Reading Ordinance 2018-18 Zoning of 110 Nez Perce Drive

Motion by Mr. Milling to rezone 110 Nez Perce Street to a R-10 low density. Seconded by Ms. Reed. All in favor.

f. Playground, Outdoor Basketball Court Bids

Mr. Lee Andrews was present to discuss bids for the playground and outdoor basketball court bids. After a brief discussion, Motioned by Mr. Milling to approve bids with Bliss Products without the fitness equipment, he amends his motion because the bid doesn't not include the outdoor basketball courts. Motion by Mr. Milling to accept bid from Bliss Products for the playground equipment for $245,786.31. Seconded by Mr. Gardner. All in favor.

Motion by Mr., Gardner to approve the bids from Industrial Paving and BN Sports for the outdoor basketball courts in the total amount of $25,000. Seconded by Ms. Reed. All in favor.

g. MASC Setoff Debt Agreement

Motion by Mr. Milling to approve the MASC setoff debt agreement. Seconded by Ms. Bruce. All in favor.

Ms. Baccus made a comment about the letter Ms. Knapp had previous read in the meeting. She stated that the citizens of Ward 1 did not want to be on YouTube and they did not want to be on Facebook. She said they have a right to their privacy and the meeting was simply to discuss any issues they may have, ask any questions and gather any information to be more informed about what was going on in the city. She said most of those citizens are senior citizens and had asked not to be recorded and by law they have that right. She said for the meeting to be recorded in a private setting, the recorder would need a written consent from everyone in that room that they wanted to be recorded.

Ms. Garland informed council and Mayor of something that is very special this week. St. Johns Elementary School is celebrating 200 years as an

educational institution. They are the oldest continuous operating school in the state of SC and they are located within our city limits.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: COTTON SEED OIL MILL SITE

Mr. Milling made a motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baccus. All in favor.

Mr. Milling made a motion to come out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Mr. Gardner, seconded by Ms. Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

_____
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY – DECEMBER 4, 2018

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Lee Andrews, Ms. Anna DeWitt, Ms. Rosena James, Mr. Steve Abbott, Ms. Gladys Jules, Mr. Robert Thomas, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Mr. Henry Chapman, Mrs. Ouida Page, Mrs. Linda B. Spearman, Mr. Carl Goodson, Mr. Robert Jones, Mr. Roger Gore, Mrs. Joyce Thomas and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning News.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman John Milling did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, Seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed to approve the Minutes of November 13, 2018. All approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce. All approved the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said they had a great kickoff to the holiday season at their Annual Shop Small Darlington open house last Thursday on the Public Square with Darlington Recreation, DJ Danny Lockemy, Santa Claus and Snow. She said several businesses around the Square stayed open late offering refreshments and special deals for that night only. She said they had craft vendors and a food truck at the Courthouse and they handed out all the Shop Small tote bags and prizes that were donated from the Jewelers Bench, The Darlington Lion's Club, Luna's Closet and the DDRA. Mrs. Rock said thanks to American Express and all the people who participated in this annual event. Mrs. Rock said to continue to encourage residents to shop at Darlington businesses they have their annual Shop Darlington promotion which runs from thanksgiving to Christmas. She said residents are encouraged to shop at Darlington businesses for a chance to win one of three $100 fuel cards. She said restaurants, retail stores and gift certificates count, but prescriptions, fuel and tobacco do not. Mrs. Rock said every five receipts you get from five different Darlington businesses count as one entry. The entry forms will be located at area businesses, Darlington Chamber of Commerce and City Hall. You can find copies in the News & Press through December 19th, online at buildupdarlington.org or on the DDRA Facebook page. The entries must be postmarked by December 31st and the drawing will be held January 7, 2019. Mrs. Rock said the Downtown Christmas Market is coming up on Saturday December 15, 2018 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM in the fellowship hall at Trinity United Methodist Church on Pearl Street. There will be free face painting, a coloring station for the kids, plenty of vendors, crafts and Santa will be there at noon.

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

Ms. Harriet Hobbs said everyone would agree that "Light Up Darlington" this year was a huge success. She said the Christmas tree this year is specular. She said it's over thirty-feet tall and she wants to thank everyone who contributed their love, their time and their money to help with this project. She said it was a joint effort and could not have been done without every single person that attended meetings, contributed money and ideas. Ms. Hobbs said they have the "Angel Trees" around the Square and people gave money "In Memory Of" or "In Thanksgiving Of" or because they love Darlington. Ms. Hobbs said they raised a lot of money from the "Angel Trees". Some of the people "In Memory Of" were: Coach Gene Stokes, Carolyn Applicans, Mary Beth Watts, Brandon, Harold & Vivian Strickland, Roosevelt Segars, Douglas Mims, Bennie Gregory, Owen Kagan, Ray Norwood, Dr. Willis, Mr. & Mrs. Welch, Vivian O'Neal & Sgt. Terrance

Carraway. "In Thanksgiving Of": Todd Hardee, First Church of God, Bella Dentistry. Those who gave money were: Carolina Bank, King Horn Insurance of the Pee Dee, Glenn & Page Chestnut, Robert June & Fitness Worlds Gyms. Ms. Hobbs said they could not have done this without DSI Metals for their donation of all of the wreaths for the stores on the Square and they donated all the candles for the Courthouse windows. Genesis Healthcare donated the up-lighting at the base of the trees around the Square. Mr. Bill Moore with The Kiwanis Club built the drum that the Christmas Tree sits on. The Chamber's Annual Banquet will be held on February 28, 2019. They will start taking nominations for awards this coming Monday, December 10th which can be sent by email or snail mail. The nominations for the awards this year will be for Community Pride (Can be a business or a person), Business Leader of the Year, Citizen of the Year, and the Legacy Award.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL (5 MINUTES PER PERSON

No One Signed Up to Speak.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2018-18 ZONING OF 110 NEZ PERCE DRIVE

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, Second Reading of Ordinance 2018-18 Zoning of 110 Nez Perce Drive, which unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A) SPECIAL RECOGNITION – BOARDS, COMMISSION, CIVIC CLUBS, BUSINESSES

Mayor Hines presented the following Boards, commission, Civic Clubs and Businesses with Certificates of Recognition for helping with clean-up around Darlington, scholarships, the decorations around town, the cleaning of the graveyards, veterans memorial, helping children, any community need, donations of food, providing bicycle helmets for the kids and the Christmas Tree on the Square and she appreciates the Garden Club for that. Mayor Hines said and the fundraisers that have been held over the City for the Carraway Family and others. Mayor Hines presented Certificates to: American Legion Post 210, Darlington Lion's Club, Darlington Kiwanis Club, Historic Landmark Commission, Pee Dee United Elks 1679, Block "M" Club, Darlington Pilot Club, Darlington Tree Board, The Lord Cares,

The Beautification Board, Darlington Garden Club, Planning Committee, Round O Baptist Church, Flat Creek Baptist Church, Cherry Grove Baptist Church, Fitness World, First Baptist Church, First Church of God and Central Baptist Church. There were a number of churches/groups not present to receive their Certificate of Appreciation.

B) APPROVAL BID FOR VIRGIL WELLS STADIUM TICKET BOOTH

Mayor Hines told Council they have in their packet a bid of $14,500 for a ticket booth which will be a 10x10 block building, a steel door, metal roof, 2 ticket windows, lighting fixtures, wiring and painting. Mayor Hines said the only thing she did not see was a place to put the air conditioner. Mr. Andrews said they can talk to Mr. Scott about that. Councilman Segars asked, "Why do we need a ticket booth out there, are we charging for admission"? Mayor Hines said, "Yes, I went out there one day and I saw some ladies sitting out there trying to take money and that's kind of unwise". Mr. Andrews said, "We don't take up money for our recreation games, we lease the field out to the Pee Dee Vikings and they take up money from under a tent and that's what you saw that night". Mr. Andrews said, "We don't charge to get into our recreation games". Councilwoman Baccus said, "For example, if a church group or anybody want to rent the stadium for concerts or anything like that and going to charge a fee, we probably need one…Mr. Andrews said we could supply them with a ticket booth then. He said, "We will use it if Council approves it, but they don't charge for people to come to the recreation department games. He said they may have people that rent the field that will use it. Councilwoman Baccus said they need a ticket booth for safety reasons. Councilman Segars asked, "How are we going to pay for it; where's the money coming from"? Mr. Garland said the Hospitality Tax Bond. Councilman Milling said, "Just out of curiosity, does the rent we charge to some entity that wants to use it, does that generate any income that can be used for some of these expenses"? Mr. Andrews said it depends on what we rent it for. Mr. Andrews said if we rent our facility out for a birthday party, we don't charge the same thing that we would charge Mayo Alumni or St. John's Alumni for the weekend because it will be more expenses on the bigger people that are doing it, especially if they are charging. He said that's one of the questions that they ask on any facility that they are renting to and there are steps they have to go through as to how many people are going to be there. He said everything runs through our Police Chief because they have had some incidents and it's mandatory that there's security on site, so they charge that fee whatever it is.

Councilwoman Bruce said she's trying to remember if she's been to a stadium where there wasn't a ticket booth. Mr. Andrews said there are some places and Byerly Park doesn't use a ticket booth. He said there's not ticket booth at Freedom Florence as far as their football facility. He said every big football field has a ticket booth. Councilwoman Bruce said the point she was trying to make is most stadiums have ticket booths. Councilwoman Bruce, "But then we put money into getting this stadium right and then we put Coach Virgil Well's name on it, which is a legacy in the community and has done a lot in the Darlington Public School system and if we are going to put his name on it, I think it needs to be 100% completion so that it's recognized right". Councilwoman Bruce said, "I don't know about the air conditioning part of it Mayor, but I do think we need a ticket booth and I agree with Councilwoman Baccus from a security standpoint. Mr. Andrews said, "If we build it, it will be used". **Councilman John Milling made a motion that we approve the bid of $14,500 for the ticket booth at Virgil Wells Stadium. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

C) BULKY REFUSE ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT DISCUSSION

Councilwoman Baccus said the Bulky Refuse Ordinance is in reference to us trying to clean up the City of Darlington. She said there's trash all over the City and we have continuous offenders that's placing all kind of things in the same spots over and over and they are trying to get that problem solved. Councilwoman Baccus said Mr. Garland has some more information that he wants to give Council about the bulky refuse. Mr. Garland said he, Ms. Karen Carroll and Councilwoman Baccus have met several times about this and they have canvassed the town and identified some streets that have habitual offenders. Mr. Garland said in additional to sending a codes enforcement letter to the offenders, they are going to mention streets this month and if they continue to be offenders on this, we're not only going to follow this up with tickets, but we're going to start mentioning addresses at meetings. Mr. Garland said, "You know these folks, they are putting out mattresses and couches in your neighborhood and then turning a blind eye. It's time for us to stop this". Mr. Garland said the corner of Darlington Avenue & Parrott Street; corner of Parrott & Sycamore Streets; Chestnut Street, W. Broad Street, Jessamine Street, Edwards Avenue, First & Ross Streets, Reid Street, Bacote Street, Avenue D, Second Street, Greenway Drive, Richmond Street, and Shuler Street was called in yesterday. Mr. Garland said if we want to clean up our town we need everyone's help. He said it's an honest effort by your elected officials and appointed officials to

clean up our town and if we go and clean up a couch or take up a mattress or a chair and something is back there three weeks later, it doesn't make any sense to us why you don't take more pride in your neighborhood. He said, "Help us help you out". Councilwoman Reed said, "So what are we going to do"? Mayor Hines said this is just for information and she thinks we've already voted on this. Mr. Garland said this is just information. He said we're sending out enforcement letters and if it continues to be a problem we'll write tickets and then we will follow up with announcement of individual addresses in public.

D) VIDEO CAMERA, TREE CUTTING NOZZLE FOR VACTOR TRUCK

Mayor Hines said vactor truck was a great thing that we purchased for Darlington. She said during the storm vac truck came out and sucked the water up, but what it didn't do because we didn't have a cutter or a camera. Mayor Hines said one day on Jessamine/Chestnut Street the workers had two catch basins on each side of the street and they came by earlier and sucked all the water up, but then when there was another downpour of rain the basin filled back again so that makes her think the water has no place to go. Mayor Hines said she was told we could get a cutter because there are roots that are growing in the sewer lines. Mayor Hines said if you have a ditch and you're throwing furniture, televisions and everything else in the ditch, it stops up and it can't from one ditch to the next, so it has to be cleaned out. Mayor Hine presented Council with two prices for a camera; one for $9,852.56 & the other for $9,403.08. The price for the cutter with a rotating chain scraper was $7,734.15. She said that would help us out a whole lot if we were to get this because right now all they are doing is just sucking up water. She said as far as cutting the roots out of the pipes they can't do that, they have to have this equipment. Mayor Hines said we have this expensive truck, so she feels they need to go ahead and get it. She said it's less than $25,000 to get the camera and the cutter. Mr. Garland said it's about $17,000-$18,000. Councilman Bryant Gardner asked Mr. Kinsaul about the two different camera bids that we have and what is the difference. Mr. Kinsaul said Mayor Hines got these bids and he doesn't know. Councilman Gardner asked Mayor Hines if she knew the difference and she said she doesn't know she gave it to Mr. Garland. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Kinsaul if we have any equipment like this currently on staff. Mr. Kinsaul said we've got an old push camera that they use for sewer lines, and the only thing he see that is different is this one has a battery, but you have to have a generator for ours. Mr. Kinsaul said you push the camera down the drain as far as you

can push it and it works great on 4" to 8" sewer lines as long as you don't have to go too far. Mr. Kinsaul said it's like a sewer snake basically except it has a camera on the end of it and a light and you push it down like a service line, but the camera is small, and it won't video a large pipe. Councilman Gardner asked how far will it go? Mr. Kinsaul said it depends on any obstruction or how rough the surface is that you are pushing on. Councilwoman Reed asked if this camera would fit onto the truck? Mr. Kinsaul said, "No, this is a stand-alone camera". Councilwoman Reed asked, "What are they saying they need it for?" Mr. Kinsaul said to use with the vac truck. Councilman Milling said one of the cameras is called a "Ridgid Reel" and one is called a "Ridgid System" and wanted to know how they work one versus the other. Mr. Kinsaul said all of them will be a reel similar to a roll of sewer snake and you pull it out and push it; stick it in the drain and push it. Councilman Milling said one says "compact" and the other one doesn't and wanted to know if the compact is supposed better? Mr. Kinsaul said he thinks it's just a smaller more compact unit. Councilwoman Baccus asked Mr. Kinsaul how many feet is the one we have now. Mr. Kinsaul said he thinks it's probably 100' or either 200', but he's not sure what it is but usually you can't push it that far. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul if he's used this one yet with the vactor truck and Mr. Kinsaul said, "No, we have not". Mayor Hines said, "Why not"? She asked if it will work with the vac truck and she didn't know we had one. Mr. Kinsaul said, if you can get it down, depends on where you can push it, but he is sure this is better than what we've got, it's got a little small screen on it. Mr. Kinsaul said that camera was here long before he got here, and you've got to have power (you'll have to carry a generator with you) to run the one we have now. Mayor Hines said this one will work better because it is battery operated. Mr. Kinsaul said, "The problem you're going to get into and I'll use Broad Street (Ms. Pruitt's house), that drain is probably 12-15 feet down the catch basin, so unless somebody's going to do confined entry and go in that catch basin to be at the bottom to push that camera". He said you can't drop it in that hole and make it make that curve and push it. Councilwoman Reed said, "So, Freddie what I'm hearing you don't seem to be so plus the camera as it is". Mr. Kinsaul said, "I've got a quote on another camera, but we can't afford it". It's motorized. Councilwoman Reed asked, "So, what about the cutter part"? Mr. Kinsaul said the cutter will probably work. Mayor Hines said, "Well, we can't use anything without a camera, we've got to have a camera". Mr. Kinsaul said, "I wouldn't and let me give you an example; the storm drain that runs down Wells Street by the Fire Department when we kept having cave-ins and we finally got a company to

come in and run a camera up it and there was a 3-inch high-pressure has line in that storm drain. He said had you run that root cutter in there, you would have blown City Hall up. Mr. Kinsaul said that's his objection, not the roots, but it could be a sewer line, a water line, gas line or anything. Councilwoman Reed said, "So, now that we've got some clarity, there's no point in getting a cutter without a camera". Mr. Kinsaul said he personally would not put a root cutter in a storm drain without knowing what was in it. Mayor Hines said, "And the camera you want cost over $50,000". Mr. Kinsaul said, "Yes and as of first of the year it will be $75,000". Councilwoman Bruce asked Mayor Hines, "The gentleman you talked to at this company you think they will be able to give us the information on what's the difference between these two cameras"? Mayor Hines said, "Yes, I'll get the information". Mr. Kinsaul said this is the same company that sold us the vac truck and he got his quote came from the same company. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Kinsaul if he could get us the information about what we need to actually work because he doesn't want to spend any money until he spends it on something that will work. Mr. Kinsaul that is his concern. He said this one you could push in a shallow (possibly the Oakdale area where a lot of the drains or catch basins aren't fifteen feet deep. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Kinsaul if we know how many streets these kinds of cameras would work on versus how many streets need,,(Mr. Kinsaul interrupted Councilman Milling and said it will work on a lot of them because a lot of them will be three to six feet deep. Mayor Hines asked about Chestnut & Jessamine Streets. Mr. Kinsaul said he don't think there's any drain, but if it's deep it's not that deep. Mayor Hines said, "As you know now, it will work on most of the streets except Broad Street"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "If you can get to the end where you can push the camera, you can push it". Councilman Gardner asked, three to six feet down, is something you're comfortable with your guys working"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "If they break the pipe they would have to do confined space if they are sticking their head in that hole". Councilwoman Reed said, "She was thinking this camera would be like an attachment that whatever thing goes down and they have encountered blockage one way or the other they need to know what that is". Mr. Kinsaul said it's totally separate piece of equipment from the vactor truck. He said they will put this on the back of the pickup truck and ride it. He said there is nothing attached to the vactor truck, but the root cutter will attach to it. Councilwoman Reed said, "Once the workers encounter a blockage of some kind, then they will send the camera down and you're saying these cameras that we're looking at now don't have the capacity to go that deep. Mr. Kinsaul said, "Well, you can't push it. If

you've got a hole that's fifteen feet deep you can't drop this and make it turn and then push it up into that pipe". Councilwoman Bruce said so there's no way to maneuver. Councilman Milling said, "three to six feet anticipates somebody dropping it in the hole. Mr. Kinsaul said, "somebody being able to reach or drop down in there and push it in the hole". Mayor Hines said, "So the one for $75,000 can go around the curve"? Mr. Kinsaul said it motorized and it will go 600" down a pipe. Mr. Garland said, "Why we go ahead and get the $50,000 camera and finance it"? He said if you're going to do this, go ahead and do it right. Councilwoman Reed asked how many areas are like Broad Street, that's fifteen feet deep. Mr. Kinsaul said there are a lot of them on the Main Streets that will be deep; Cashua Street, Broad Street, Pearl Street; the larger streets). Councilwoman Baccus said, "So Mayor, I'm suggesting that we just-no point in continuing discussing it, because we don't what we're getting. Maybe we can get this company bring it to us and let us see what we what it is instead of continuing to talk about it. Mr. Kinsaul said they can do that. He said in fact, he can bring you both- he can bring the cheaper model and he can bring the more expensive model. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Kinsaul to call and set that up for Council. Mr. Kinsaul asked if they want it at a Council meeting or ….Mr. Garland said I think it's something that will have to be done during the day. Councilman Gardner asked if we can push this demonstration out until January and Mayor Hines said, "Yes". Councilman Segars said, "On the root cutter, what is stated on the paper is 8" to 16"; what's that going to do if you get into a large pipe or do buy different size root cutters". Mr. Kinsaul said you can get large, but what you try to do is cut hole and it may not totally clear the pipe but if you can get through an obstruction then water can go through a lot better. Mayor Hines told Mr. Kinsaul to set up the appointment and let him bring the cameras and they can go somewhere and have them do a demonstration.

E) APPROVAL OF 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Garland made note of a couple of changes on the agenda. He said New Year's Day is Tuesday January 1st, so the meeting was moved to Tuesday January 8th; Election is Tuesday November 5th, so it was moved to Tuesday November 12th. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the 2019 City Council Meeting Calendar. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Gloria Hines said she wants everybody to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. She said if you keep Jesus first you'll do alright. She said to remember that Jesus is the reason for the Season! Mayor Hines said try to keep Darlington first and do right by Darlington.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed said on the City Manager's report explained that the EDA Grant Application had been rejected twice and another one was submitted on November 15th and she wanted to know if we had different people. Councilwoman Reed said she noted who the grant application was submitted by and wanted to know if we are still using the same people to submit the grant application. Mr. Garland said Pee Dee COG is still doing it. He said Pee Dee COG said everything got in in time. Councilwoman Reed asked if these are the ones that submitted it twice before and got turned down. Mr. Garland said it wasn't turned down they just sent it back saying the narrative needed to be expanded.

Councilman Bryant Gardner said if that other camera is going to go from $50,000 to $75,000 in January, maybe we should have an expedited interest in that to be worked out in December. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Kinsaul to talk to them about holding the price until they can at least give us a chance to look at the camera and root cutter. Mr. Kinsaul said the man said they are going to buy a few so they may have some after January at that price. Mr. Kinsaul said he talked to him today and he said they were planning on stocking a few and try to sell them at that price. Councilwoman Baccus asked if they were the only company available that has those cameras. Mr. Kinsaul said they are the ones local that we brought the truck from (out of Sumter).

Councilwoman Baccus wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday.

REMINDERS

Monday December 24th-Wednesday December 26th Christmas Holidays, City Offices Closed;
Tuesday January 8, 2019 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

Councilman Milling said to put something in the paper about for those people whose city services is on Monday-Wednesday, letting them know what the makeup days are going to be.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Clerk & Treasurer