CITY OF DARLINGTON
400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC
JULY 7, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Present: Mayor Curtis Boyd, City Manager Howard Garland, Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Howard Nettles, Elaine Reed, John Milling and John Segars. Also present was Mrs. Lisa Rock, Mr. Charles Bailey, Mr. Alex Gainey, W&S Superintendent Mr. Kinsaul, Ms. Sheila Jones, Fire Chief Pat Cavanagh, Mr. Ernest Boston, Mr. Will Isgett, Mr. Burt Jordan, Former Mayor Gloria Hines, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Mrs. Nancy Matthews and Mr. Bobby Bryant with the News and Press.

PRAYER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS JUNE 2, 2020 AND JUNE 29, 2020

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of our Regular City Council Meeting on June 2, 2020 Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Milling, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes for the Special City Council meeting on June 29, 2020. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Milling, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for today's meeting July 7, 2020. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Milling, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association
Report for Council —July 7, 2020

Congratulations to the City of Darlington team who came out on top at the **Annual DDRA Golf Tournament on Wednesday, June 24**, at Darlington Country Club under the club's new golf pro Jordan Hinson. Thank you to **Carolina Bank, Darlington Raceway, Fitness World Gyms, and Nationwide Insurance** for their support of our tournament this year and in years prior. Also, thanks to **Coca-Cola, FBI Construction, Wilson Senior Care, Palmetto Office Furniture, Howle Law Firm, Lowe's Tow Bars, and Marlboro Development Team** for their support!

Since we are unable to have many of our events, such as the Taste of Darlington and concert events downtown, due to COVID-19 and social distancing requirements, we have begun a

summer promotion and contest to encourage shoppers to keep their dollars in Darlington. This effort to **Save Our Restaurants & Eat Local** will give patrons a chance to win one **of three $250 CASH prizes** just for eating at locally owned restaurants in town. Simply eat local, get your brochure stamped by the business when you pay, collect 20 stamps, and mail in your brochure to be entered into the drawing. You can enter as many times as you like, and entries will roll over from one month to the next. Contest continues through August 31. **The brochures will be available to print out from Facebook and from BuildUpDarlington.org as well as at participating restaurants.**

In the meantime, we continue to promote Darlington and its businesses on Social Media and through our News Alert System each week, and we continually update our Web page, www.BuildUpDarlington.org/covid19, as businesses adapt to this new normal. Members receive the most prominent placement on the updates and can use our service to send out notices about upcoming hours, specials, employee recognition, and events. Individuals, businesses, industry partners, nonprofit organizations, churches, and civic clubs are eligible to be DDRA members.

For more information, call Lisa Rock at 843-992-1561 or visit www.BuildUpDarlington.org.

GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - MRS. NANCY MATTHEWS

Mrs. Matthews said the biggest news is they are still working to have a Freedom Fest, but it has a new name now it's called "Fright Fest" and they anticipate hosting it on October 24th, 2020 at the track. They have verbal commitment from the track but no contract yet. Mrs. Matthews told Council she would keep them posted. Mrs. Matthews said, "Our contracts are able to be cancelled; they are not going to enter into anything that is going to bind them based on the environment". Mrs. Matthews told Council she appreciates the City's support for that event, and she hopes it still comes about. She said they also hosted a ribbon-cutting on June 25th for a new business-Dr. RV at 1033 Pearl Street. Lastly, the Chamber recognizes the tremendous commitment and efforts of all public officials always but particularly during the last 4 to 5 months.

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

Mr. Ernest Boston thanked the City for giving him the opportunity to stand and to speak before the City Council. Mr. Boston said he came to thank Chief Washington for his support during the George Floyd March. He was very instrumental in giving them direction and making sure everything went out without a hitch. Mr. Boston said he also wanted to thank Chief Washington and Mr. Lee Andrews for what they did for the kids afterwards. He said Mr. Washington and Mr. Andrews could not have done that without the direction of Mr. Garland and the Mayor. He thanked Mayor Boyd for coming out and speaking. He said with all of the concerns that his grandson had and raised about being a part of something he saw how things are supposed to be done; in the spirit of love and saw the crowd as everybody came together and was very nice and participated in a nice way. Mr. Boston said, "I just want to take this opportunity to say thank you to Chief Washington and Mr. Andrews for following through with the program for the kids afterwards and thank you to the City also because they could not have done this without the direction and the support of the City Council and the city administration. Mr. Boston said, "I

hope that this will be continued, that we don't stop, but we continue to have a relationship built between our elected officials, our law enforcement, and our community because we can be a shining example if we are willing to do that".

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Will Isgett said the Miss Darlington USA, Miss Raceway City USA, Miss Darlington County Teen USA and Miss Raceway City USA pageants will be held at historic Darlington raceway stock car museum on August 1st his group has entered into a contract with them and they will be having it there they will be following CDC guidelines with the Raceway. Mr. Isgett said they are one of two preliminaries in the state of South Carolina that gives young people the opportunity in our region to have more opportunities. He said having the pageant in Darlington also enables young women to win scholarship money to continue their education. In 21 years of having the pageant they have given away more than $30,000 in scholarship money to young individuals. He said our Miss Darlington 2018 Sarah Floyd just earned her master's degree in music education from the University of South Carolina and she will begin a job as a music teacher at Waccamaw Elementary in Pawleys Island this fall. He said we have grown this year and our pageant will provide our city with four representatives he said having this is imperative as our City continues to grow. He said the city has been a presenting sponsor for the event for more than 10 years and as a volunteer we need the support of the community to continue our positive endeavor and they need our help more than ever. Mr. Isgett told Council he came before them tonight to see if they would help them out once again. Councilman John Milling asked if they needed a motion to continue to be a presenting sponsor? Mr. Garland said in the past, some years we've given $500, and some years it's been $1,000, so it is up to Council. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to give $500 to the Miss Darlington pageant. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Milling, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.**

MR. BURT JORDAN MOBILE HOME ORDINANCE

Mr. Burt Jordan said he is a Real Estate Broker here in Darlington and he represents the estate of Harold Timmons and Hugh White he said they have some property in the city limits of Darlington that they can't seem to sell because they have restrictions for no mobile homes inside the city limits of Darlington. Mr. Jordan said he has a list of the properties that they own, and they would like some consideration for making some changes on this otherwise the property won't be sold. He said he's been on the market now for a couple of years. Mr. Jordan said he has some sheets that identify the properties that they own, and he will leave them for them. Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Jordan the sizes of the property. Mr. Jordan said they are different sizes of property, but he has a sheet showing the tax maps numbers on the different properties. He said he gets numerous calls from people wanting to buy the property, but they want to put a mobile home, but the law doesn't allow it. Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Jordan if the properties were all in one specific area or are they all over town? Mr. Jordan said, "No it's all in one area". Mr. Alex Gainey assisted Mr. Jordan because he appeared to have a problem

hearing what Mayor Boyd was asking. Mr. Gainey said, “One is at the corner of First & H Ave, G Ave. & First Street, Fleming Street, Chalmers Street, Chestnut Street, Lighty Street, Chestnut & Jessamine Streets, Kirven and Vaughn Street. Mayor Boyd asked, “Why can’t they build a house on it”? Mr. Gainey said, “I don’t know what size the lots are but… Sheila Jones said, “Some of the lots there are more shotgun, so they are longer, and they are skinny and some of them don’t allow for houses to be built”. She said they also would be too skinny to put a mobile home. Ms. Sheila Jones said you would have to research whether or not a house could be built on the lots because mobile homes are not permitted in any of our districts. Mr. Garland said, “Why don’t we at least look at the handout Mr. Jordan has, and we can report back to you and maybe have Sheila meet with Mr. Jordan about it”. Councilwoman Baccus said, “But I don’t think it’s a good idea to put mobile homes in our city limits”. Sheila Jones said, No, not mobile homes, but to see if it’s big enough to actually put houses. Mr. Garland told Mr. Jordan that we would be back in touch with him. Mr. Garland told Mr. Jordan that Ms. Sheila Jones would give him a call this week.

PROPOSED ADVERTISEMENTS ON CITY OWNED VEHICLES

Mayor Curtis Boyd said he’s looking for different ways that we can generate funds without raising said water rates or taxes or anything else. He said while he was in Sumter one day, they had a street sweeper that the guy walks around with and it has a digital advertisement on their street sweeper. Mayor Boyd said he has offered his service of putting the material on the trucks and he’ll be willing to go out and get the advertisements. He said if anybody else wants to help him get the advertisements on the trucks, they can. He said according to Alex Gainey we have six trucks, but Alex said we have five big trucks that we could put advertisements on both sides. Mayor Boyd said nothing would be put on the advertisement without the city’s approval. He said, “for example, the advertisement would say State Farm proudly supports the City of Darlington, something of that nature”. He said they will put their advertisement on the side of a truck for a year and they would pay it for a year or six months or whatever period of time to put that material on there and then the city Council will be able to agree and determine what you want to do with those funds. Mayor Boyd said this will be a different way to bring money into the city. He then asked council for their thoughts and ideas. Mrs. Lisa Rock suggested that we write a set of rules of what is and is not acceptable for an advertisement. Councilman Howard Nettles asked if we have a set number that can go on each vehicle? Mayor Boyd said, “The picker truck for an example, I would say one on each side”. He said, “We can look at it, but the goal would be not to make the truck look gawky, but make it look professional with the advertisement on the side. Councilman Nettles asked, “So we limit size and the number”? Mr. Garland said, correct. Councilwoman Reed said, “So it would be certain…. When you say five trucks”…. Mayor Boyd said, “You have two picker trucks, two trash trucks and the vactor truck”. Councilwoman Baccus asked, “Do we have a breakdown of what the cost would be for State Farm or whoever to put something on the side of this truck and then how much would you charge the city to do this”? Mayor Boyd said, “There will be no charge to the city. I would offer my services and the material for free”. Councilwoman Baccus asked, “How much would it cost State Farm to put this on the side of the truck”? Mayor Boyd said, “Whatever City Council decides to charge”. Councilman Bryant Gardner said, “It sounds like free money to me and I’ve got no problem with that”. Councilman Gardner said, If it ever gets to be a cost or charges, just

make sure we bid it out". Mayor Boyd said, "I would like to also pursue (for somebody to pursue-Lisa) while we're doing it to be able to put a sheet of paper in the water bill at the same time where we can start generating funds for that". If it cost us $300 to add a sheet of paper into the water bill, then can we sell ads for that? Mrs. Rock said we're waiting on that. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the advertisements on City on vehicles to include a list of do's and don'ts for companies that can advertise and how much will be charged to businesses. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Milling, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.**

BOARDS/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Rock said it's July and we are starting our new fiscal year and that means there are a lot of Board and Commission appointments because terms expire on June 30. Mrs. Rock said a lot of the terms have expired and her recommendation is to reappoint the folks who said that they were willing to continue to serve**. Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to reappoint Mr. George Chace to the Historic Landmarks Commission. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Milling, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.**

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to reappoint Ms. Rose Pruitt to the Historic Landmarks Commission. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Milling, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to reappoint Ms. Catherine Howle to the Historic Landmarks Commission. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Milling, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.

Councilman Howard Nettles made a motion to reappoint Mr. William Jackson to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Milling, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.

Mrs. Rock said there are quite a few seats still available and if you know someone who is interested helping the City and want some details about the different boards and what they do they can give her a call.

RECEIVE AS INFORMATION

A) DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Sheila Baccus said, "I received an email and I'm sure everybody else got it because it shows it was sent to everybody that Ms. Lathan sent us and I'm sure she sent it to Lisa because it was supposed to be read in the Council meeting tonight so I'm curious to know,

did you receive it Lisa for Citizens comments or citizens questions or something"? Councilman Gardner asked Councilwoman Baccus if that was the email, she sent 5 something? Councilwoman Baccus said, "Yes, 5:15 or something like that". Mrs. Rock said it was after 5 o'clock and she was at home eating dinner". Mrs. Rock said they typically ask people to submit their comments in advance, preferably by noon the day before. Mrs. Rock said, the comments if you look at the email are exactly the same comments that I read of hers, or at least that's what it's showing on my email. Mrs. Rock said this is the exact same email that was sent previously and was read during the meeting on June 25th. Councilwoman Baccus said, "From what I understand from the email I got, she requested a response in writing at the last council meeting and she never got a response back in writing pertaining to her email, so it was sent again to the Council for the purpose of being read again and asking again for a response in writing". Councilwoman Baccus said, "And she can request the response in writing". She said if you read our rules in our ordinance, she has that right so she should have been responded back in writing because she requested the response in writing". Some of the council members asked, are we required to respond? I heard Mrs. Rock say, "We are not". Some council members said, "Yes". Councilman Bryant Gardner said, "For arguments sake, I didn't know if we were legally required to or not". Mrs. Rock said, "During citizens comments, anytime somebody comes here like Mr. Boston (permitting the chair) you're welcome to have a conversation with them but it is not a requirement". Councilwoman Sheila Baccus said, "If she sends something in writing to you are you saying she doesn't have a right to get a response back in writing"? Mrs. Lisa Rock said, "I'm not saying she doesn't, I'm just saying there's nowhere written that says you have to". Mrs. Rock said, "It's really impolite to not respond to somebody in writing when they ask you to, but that doesn't mean that… I mean I'm certain there's plenty of times I've written to people and not gotten anything written back". Councilwoman Elaine Reed said, "Let's not make that an issue. She was very specific about getting a response in that long letter". Councilwoman Reed said, "She was very specific about us responding and she may have said in writing, but I know she wants a response". Councilwoman Reed asked, "Have we responded? Councilman Bryant Gardner asked, "Did y'all respond, I did not. He said I know John Milling responded. Mrs. Rock said, "It was directed to council so I wouldn't have written anything". Councilwoman Sheila Baccus said, "I don't think John responded". Councilman Bryant Gardner said, "He responded because she even asked if he would respond again a little bit later". Councilwoman Sheila Baccus asked, "To her or to Gladys"? Councilman John Millings said, "I didn't respond to the specific questions, I responded to Ms. Lathan's request saying that I thought some of the stuff that she requested was information that would be in essence helpful to all of us". Councilman John Milling said, "I certainly have no problem about the City trying to put together a written response because I think it may provide some guidance and information for City Council members as well as for Ms. Lathan". Councilman John Milling said, "I didn't think that the question she asked was particularly outlandish, so I don't see any reason not to provide her with her request". He said, "I don't know whether with other things that have been going on with getting the budget put together during June and the public meeting and that kind of stuff Mr. Garland or any of the staff has had the opportunity to respond to her but I am assuming Mr. Garland can somewhat remember the requests that were made and if he thinks he can get it to her in 45 days or 60 days, I'd say let's just look to Mr. Garland to provide that information within the next 45 or 60 days. Mr. Garland said there were parts of that letter

that were not just staff they were specific questions to councilmembers. He said there may be some things we can provide but others…. Councilman John Milling said, “Most of hers, I think related to certain things like projects and what have you, but obviously we need to take another look at her request to determine what needs to come from Council as a unified response and what needs to come from the City. Councilwoman Baccus said, “I think the Council should have the decency to reply, to respond to her comments”.. Councilman Gardner asked Councilwoman Baccus, “Did you reply”? Councilwoman Baccus said, “I did, I spoke to her personally, but I can’t speak for everybody else, I can only speak for me”. Councilman Howard Nettles asked Councilwoman Baccus if she put her response in writing and Councilwoman Baccus said, “No I didn’t that’s not what she asked for”. Councilman Nettles and Councilman Gardner both said, “I thought that’s what she asked for”. Councilwoman Baccus said, “Yes in writing. I’m saying I spoke to her one-on-one, but that’s not what she was asking for. She asked for it in writing”. Councilman Bryant Gardner said, “We all failed her, and I apologize on my part”. Councilman Howard Nettles asked, “So can we construct some information and get back to you Howard; look at it from a council-member prospective and get some information back to you”? Mr. Garland said, “Sure”.

Mayor Boyd said, “I would like to say thank you to the Fire Department for doing a fantastic job with Mr. Pinky Howle’s business that caught on fire the other day”. He said the firemen are at risk every day to do that and he wanted to personally tell them thank you and thank you for your service.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed said she wanted to put this before council to maybe begin to look at (like some of the other cities) an ordinance that refers to the use of masks. Councilwoman Reed said, “Since I see the offices are still not open to the public, we might need to deal with that”. She said we need to look again at doing the virtual meeting as well and maybe limiting the public inside because the numbers are rising, and we are on the increase. Councilwoman Elaine Reed said, “Maybe see what measures we might be able to take”. Mr. Garland said, “Why don’t we have the rest of our meetings, until we get through this, at Baldwin Gym because that seems to work well”. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus asked how many people would that be limited to? Mr. Garland said he thinks 50 total. Mrs. Rock said, “It’s 50 in addition to Mayor and Council”. Mr. Garland said, “Why don’t we confirm those numbers”. Mrs. Rock said, “It’s 70 total and I assumed including Council and staff would be 20, so that leaves room for 50 people”. Mrs. Lisa Rock said this is based on the Fire Marshall’s determination.

REMINDERS

Tuesday August 11, 2020, at 6:30 PM – Monthly City Council Meeting

ADJOURN

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to adjourn the meeting 7:11 PM. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Nettles, Milling, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.

Clerk & Treasurer

ATTEST:

Mayor